Estrada fails to file libel suit as scheduled

STORY ON PAGE A2

MY LIFESAVER!

Cell phone saves lost young Brit

PERTH, Australia—Thanks to modern telecommunication, an English tourist who was stranded on a mountain in Western Australia was rescued after he called up his father on

CELL/ A13

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2001 ★★ 42 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 249 ₱15

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K. Wong flies to H. Kong

Lacson says his friend will return as he has businesses here

BY CARLITO PABLO, TJ BURGONIO AND ARMAND NOCUM

THE MAN whom military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus tagged as Sen. Panfilo Lacson's financier in the illegal drug trade has flown the coop.

Businessman Kim Wong exited through the Centennial Terminal II of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport around 5:45 p.m. Tuesday and boarded Philippine Airlines Flight PR310 bound for Hong Kong, said Simeon Vallada, supervisor of the Bureau of Immigration unit at the Naia.

Vallada said Wong, 39, was not on the bureau's watch list or on the hold-departure list, and thus was cleared for departure.

He said the bureau's unit at the airport had not received any directive from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) or the Philippine National Police to monitor Wong's departure.

This was confirmed by Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, whom the INQUIRER contacted by phone in Baguio City where she was presiding over a seminar on immigration.

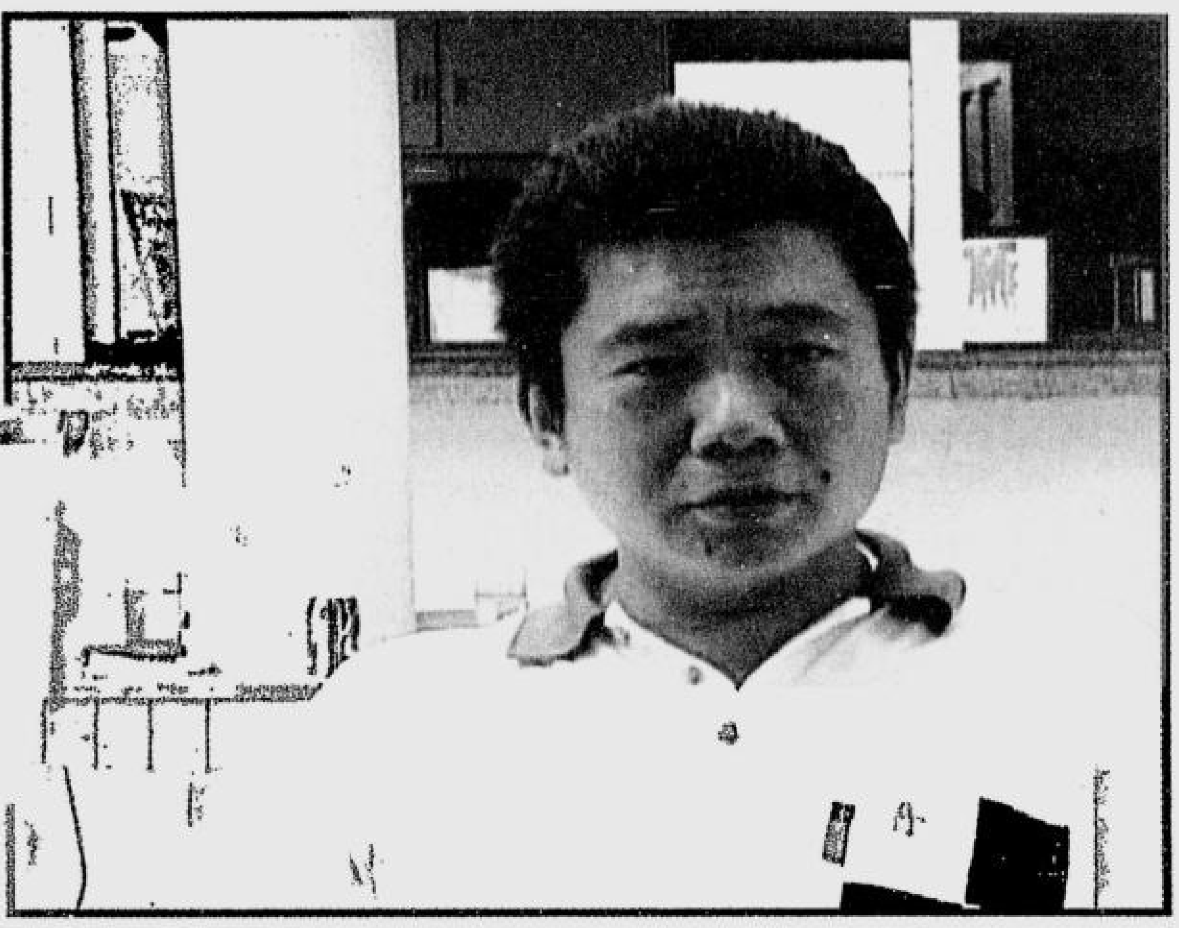
Domingo said Wong, a Chinese national who is married to a Filipino, used his real name Kamsin Wong in the departure records.

Asked to comment on speculation that Wong was intending to stay away for good, Lacson said his friend would come back to the country as "he has businesses to return to."

Told that Wong had supposedly left his businesses to his friends, Lacson joked that he had not gotten any.

Wong, who, according to Corpus, has links with the Chinese 14-K international drug ring,

K. WONG/ A12



THIS time, Col. Victor Corpus gets his Wong photo right. The only problem is Kim Wong (real name: Kamsin Wong) left for Hong Kong late Tuesday afternoon after feeling the heat in Manila.

FILMGRAB FROM GMA-7

Palace denies issuing 'gag order' on Corpus

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL AND CARLITO PABLO

THERE is no "gag order" on Col. Victor Corpus in connection with his exposé on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged money laundering activities and supposed links with the trade in illegal drugs.

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, yesterday said the designation of Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan as spokesperson of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which Corpus heads, was a mere "reminder" about the existing military structure.

This was the same position expressed by National Security Adviser Roilo Golez, who said the designation of Adan as Isafp spokesperson was not even an "indirect gag order" as it merely

PALACE/ A12

FBI only found 4 active Alice accounts

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

CONFIDENTIAL letters from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) show that the US agency investigated the alleged bank accounts of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in California on the request of its Philippine counterpart but found only four active accounts held by wife Alice and one account that Lacson closed in 1996.

According to the letters, however, the FBI also found that US Social Security Account No. 564-53-7561 is "associated" with Lacson for "credit purposes," belying the senator's claim that he could not open a bank account in the United States because he did not have a social security number.

The letters, copies of which were obtained by the INQUIRER from a Macapagal administration official, confirm that the Lacsons sold a house in California and that Alice Lacson has two checking accounts with small balances and two savings accounts, both with a "large balance."

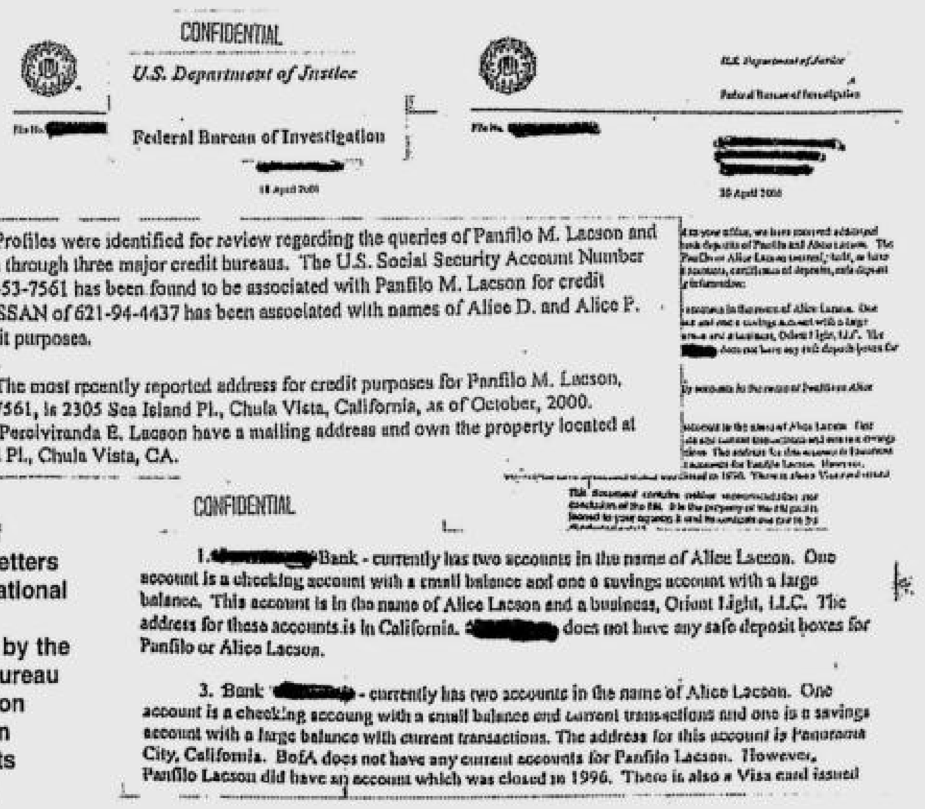
One of the accounts was in the name of Ms Lacson and "Orient Light, LLC," a company earlier reported to be one of two firms set up by the senator's wife in Beverly Hills in the greater Los Angeles area, the letters said.

Portions of the letters, which have the subject line "Re: Panfilo M. Lacson and Alice P. Lacson Official Investigation" and are addressed to the National Bureau of Investigation, were blackened out by the INQUIRER source.

The letters are purportedly among the documents that NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday refused to submit to Ombudsman Aniano Desierto despite an order from the latter.

The official correspondence, dated April 18 and April 30, does not appear to confirm any of the eight accounts listed by Col. Victor

FBI/ A12



CONFIDENTIAL

U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

File No. [redacted]

[redacted]

Profiles were identified for review regarding the queries of Panfilo M. Lacson and Alice P. Lacson through three major credit bureaus. The U.S. Social Security Account Number (SSAN) of 564-53-7561 has been found to be associated with Panfilo M. Lacson for credit purposes. The SSAN of 621-94-4437 has been associated with names of Alice D. and Alice P. Lacson for credit purposes.

The most recently reported address for credit purposes for Panfilo M. Lacson, SSAN 564-53-7561, is 2305 Sea Island Pl., Chula Vista, California, as of October, 2000. Emami M. and Percivirandа E. Lacson have a mailing address and own the property located at 2305 Sea Island Pl., Chula Vista, CA.

CONFIDENTIAL

1. [redacted] Bank - currently has two accounts in the name of Alice Lacson. One account is a checking account with a small balance and one a savings account with a large balance. This account is in the name of Alice Lacson and a business, Orient Light, LLC. The address for these accounts is in California. [redacted] does not have any safe deposit boxes for Panfilo or Alice Lacson.

3. Bank [redacted] - currently has two accounts in the name of Alice Lacson. One account is a checking accoung with a small balance and current transactions and one is a savings account with a large balance with current transactions. The address for this account is Panorama City, California. BofA does not have any current accounts for Panfilo Lacson. However, Panfilo Lacson did have an account which was closed in 1996. There is also a Visa card issued

File No. [redacted]

[redacted]

PORTIONS of confidential letters sent to the National Bureau of Investigation by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation on the Lacson bank accounts in California.

ARMM PLEBISCITE

Results show 'overwhelming' no

BY PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

EARLY results of Tuesday's plebiscite showed an "overwhelming" rejection of the proposed expansion of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"It would seem to me that the 'no' votes overwhelmed the 'yes' votes as of the moment," said Commission on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo. Final results are not expected for days.

So be it, President Macapagal-Arroyo said of the initial results of the plebiscite held in 14 provinces and 14 cities to determine whether residents there want their areas included in the four-province ARMM.

"We have to live by the results of the plebiscite. It's the people's voice," the President was quoted by her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao as saying.

In General Santos City, residents rejected the proposal for their inclusion in the ARMM.

City election registrar Abraham Nilong said about 46 percent of the 180,180 registered voters cast their ballots, but only 1,275 voters or 1.52 percent favored the inclusion of the city into the autonomous region.

But the INQUIRER found a discrepancy of 182 votes when the actual votes cast was compared with the total number of votes.

Nilong vowed to look into the discrepancy.

In Cotabato City, a Catholic priest who campaigned against the inclusion of the city in the autonomous region yesterday said he "smelled something fishy" in the balloting.

"There appears to be a deliberate move by unseen hands to (change) the outcome of the plebiscite," Fr. Jose Colin Bagaforo said.

The city board of canvassers, chaired by Arturo Cocjin, has yet to convene, more than 24 hours after certificates of canvass from 385 precincts have been brought to the

RESULTS/ A12

High court upholds Bayan Muna victory

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA AND MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THREE months after the elections, the Supreme Court upheld the victory of party-list group Bayan Muna, clearing the way for Representatives Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza and Crispin Beltran to move from the parliament of the streets into the halls of Congress.

In a two-page resolution dated Aug. 14 and received by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday, the full court removed all legal obstacles to the proclamation of Bayan Muna as a winner among more than 160 groups that fielded party-list candidates in the May polls.

By "partially" lifting a temporary restraining order (TRO) it issued on May 9, the high court "enabled the commission to proclaim Bayan Muna . . . as winner in the party-list election."

The justices only partially lifted the TRO because they still have to rule on separate petitions or comments filed by 17 other groups.

The SC decision was based on an urgent motion filed by Bayan Muna on July 25, asking the high tribunal to compel the Comelec to proclaim the qualified winners, after non-marginalized groups that ran in the party-list election were disqualified.

The SC also directed the Comelec to reply to a comment filed by winning reelectionist party-list group Akbayan and to a "statement of position" filed by another win-

HIGH/ A13

Movies' future lies in hands of gov't, viewing public

BY NESTOR U. TORRE

(Last of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

CAN anything be done to arrest the downward spiral and effect the resurgence of local films?

In the '70s, Filipino films were both prosperous and progressive, and gave Hollywood movies a run for their money. How did we lose that edge? Can we hope to recover that advantage? And how can this turnaround be effected?

Filipino movies dissipated their advantage when some filmmakers lost their passion and became too comfortable with compromise. Many of them will refuse to admit this, of course, but the difference is obvious in the movies they make.

To come up with the better movies that viewers now demand, filmmakers will have to reassess their reasons for being in the movie business, and try to recapture the same commitment and sense of risk-taking that made Filipino films in the '70s so exceptional.

Producers have to realize that old film formats and quickie production practices no longer work, so they have no choice but to look for fresh plots, themes and characters, and directors creative enough to make those elements come alive onscreen.

If they analyze the few local movies that have clicked with viewers in the past few months, they will see that most of them are family films, stories about young people, and movies with inspiring themes.

So, producers should veer away from sex and action, and give viewers what they are asking for during

MOVIES/ A13

MAHIHIRAPAN SA SECURITY YAN!

Erap no-show at libel suit venue

By Donna S. Cueto
and Agnes Donato

FORMER President Joseph Estrada failed to show up at the Pasig City prosecutor's office yesterday to file a P100 million libel suit against military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

This after government prosecutors had moved to oppose the court order that had allowed Estrada to leave his detention suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City in order to file the suit.

The Ombudsman and his team of prosecutors filed an urgent ex-parte motion for reconsideration, opposing the Sandiganbayan's order allowing Estrada to leave the VMMC to file the suit.

The reason the government team gave for opposing the order was that they had not been furnished a copy of the defense motion seeking permission for Estrada to file the suit in Pasig.

The prosecutors had also said that transporting Estrada from the VMMC to the Pasig City prosecutor's office entailed "immense logistical requirements."

They said Estrada could subscribe to his affidavit "before any prosecutor or government official authorized to administer the oath." Even a notary public could examine the affidavit and administer the oath to Estrada, they added.

Personal appearance

"In this light, and in the light of the immense logistical requirements needed to move the accused, there is no legal basis and practical benefit for the personal appearance of the former president before the Office of the City Prosecutor of Pasig," the motion dated Aug. 14 read.

The Sandiganbayan had given Estrada until Aug. 15 to subscribe to his libel complaint before the Pasig City prosecutor's office.

However, his own lawyers filed yesterday an "urgent manifestation," saying they would "hold in abeyance" the filing of the libel suit until the prosecution's motion was "fully heard on notice."

Estrada's lawyers also agreed it was not easy to organize security for Estrada in his trip from the VMMC to Pasig City.

"You cannot just order the PNP in one day," Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag said. "We recognize the validity of practical concerns."

Saguisag said Estrada did not need to file the libel suit immediately, as the law allows him to file the suit within one year from the date of publication of the article in question.

He said it was only fair that the court heard the prosecution's motion, which was filed a few hours after the resolution allowing Estrada to leave detention was issued on Aug. 14.

Another reason

Estrada lawyer Cleofe Versola, however, gave another reason for Estrada's failure to show up in Pasig.

She said they found out that Pasig has been placed under the jurisdiction of Rizal province, which would be too far from Estrada's place of detention in Quezon City.

"So we have to correct our papers and go back to the drawing board to determine what the proper venue (for the suit) should be," Versola told Agence France Presse.

"We are not inclined to file the case today in Rizal, because it would be very far," she said.

But she stressed the libel case against Corpus and the Inquirer would be filed at a later date.

Estrada, who is facing plunder charges along with his son, former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, has said he was "gravely affected and hurt by the baseless accusation" made by Corpus, as reported in the Inquirer, that he kept hundreds of millions of dollars in banks accounts abroad.

Police and media were kept waiting for hours for the former president at the office of Rizal chief prosecutor Gregorio Arizala.

Securing Erap

More than 200 policemen from the Eastern Police District were deployed at the Rizal capitol compound before the arrival of the ex-president.

Police also secured the routes Estrada was to take to Pasig and set up a tent on the grounds in front of the prosecutor's office.

Arizala said he had expected Estrada to arrive at his office early. He said he arrived at work at around 6:30 a.m. to prepare for Estrada's coming.

Arizala said Estrada could file his suit before the Makati prosecutor's office, since the Inquirer is located in that city.

"But he most likely will file his complaint here because his last known address was in San Juan, which falls under our jurisdiction," Arizala said.

Corpus in a report to President Macapagal-Arroyo had alleged that Estrada and former national police chief Panfilo Lacson have at least a combined $728.5 million stashed in US, Canadian and Hong Kong banks.

The money came from drug trafficking and kidnapping activities since 1996, Corpus had charged.

Estrada and Lacson, now a senator, have denied the allegations, claiming they were part of a government propaganda campaign against the opposition. *With an AFP report*

Palace, Congress vow to pass bill vs laundering

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

EXECUTIVE and congressional leaders yesterday resolved to pass an anti-money laundering law to remove the Philippines from a blacklist of countries facing international sanctions for being havens of dirty money.

Cabinet officials and Senate and House leaders made the commitment during the first meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council presided over by President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang yesterday.

Ledac, comprising 20 Cabinet officials and congressional leaders, is the advisory and consultative body on economic issues.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said the President has "requested priority action" on the measure "because of a threat by certain sectors."

The Philippines has been given until Sept. 30 to pass the Anti-Money Laundering Act by the Financial Action Task Force, the Paris-based money-laundering watchdog, to conform with the internationally accepted financial legislation.

The FATF named 15 "non-cooperative countries and territories," including the Philippines, which have "made inadequate progress to fight money-laundering."

"The private sector could have some difficulties in its financial dealings if this is not addressed," Drilon said.

Yesterday, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II explained to members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry that the passage of the anti-money laundering act was the administration's main priority considering that failure to enact the bill would be detrimental to the economy.

Roxas said failure to meet the FATF-imposed deadline could affect business transactions, especially those involving trade with other countries.

If the Philippines stays on the FATF blacklist, all financial transactions of the country would be subject to more intense verification and scrutiny, said Roxas.

Roxas said that although there were 16 bills being pushed for approval under Ledac's list of priority measures, Congress was only likely to deliberate and approve two of these bills before yearend.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said several House leaders have assured that the chamber would be able to pass the measure in time for the Sept. 30 deadline. ***Reports from Gil Cabacungan and Christine Avendaño***

We want Mark Jimenez, says US envoy

By Dona Pazzibugan

WASHINGTON is bent on extraditing Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, since the Philippines has yet to ship its first wanted person to the US under the 1994 RP-US extradition treaty.

American embassy charge d'affaires Michael Malinowski said that while the US has extradited Filipinos, Manila has not done the same to US fugitives.

"No fugitives have been returned to the United States from the Philippines under the terms of the extradition treaty. We have made a number of requests for the extradition of fugitives from American justice. Among these, of course, is Mark Jimenez," Malinowski said in luncheon remarks to the Philippine Bar Association yesterday.

Malinowski said Manila should apply the treaty "to establish a precedent and ensure a solid foundation for future extradition's between our two countries."

"We want Mark Jimenez extradited," he said during the open forum. "The case goes beyond the person of Mark Jimenez. We want to see (the treaty) work both ways as a major tool for both countries to fight transnational crimes."

Jimenez, who is wanted in the US for conspiracy to commit fraud, mail fraud, tax evasion, issuing false statements to the government and illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party, has been fighting extradition for two years.

Recently, the Department of Justice questioned before the Supreme Court the decision of a Manila judge granting Jimenez bail of P1 million for the duration of his extradition trial.

The DOJ contended the treaty does not allow for bail pending an extradition hearing.

Malinowski refused to comment on the bail issue, saying this was "up to Philippine courts to decide."

Both sides have several pending extradition requests, he added.

The most recent Filipino suspect extradited by the US was murder suspect Nancy Ong, who was returned to the country on July 19.

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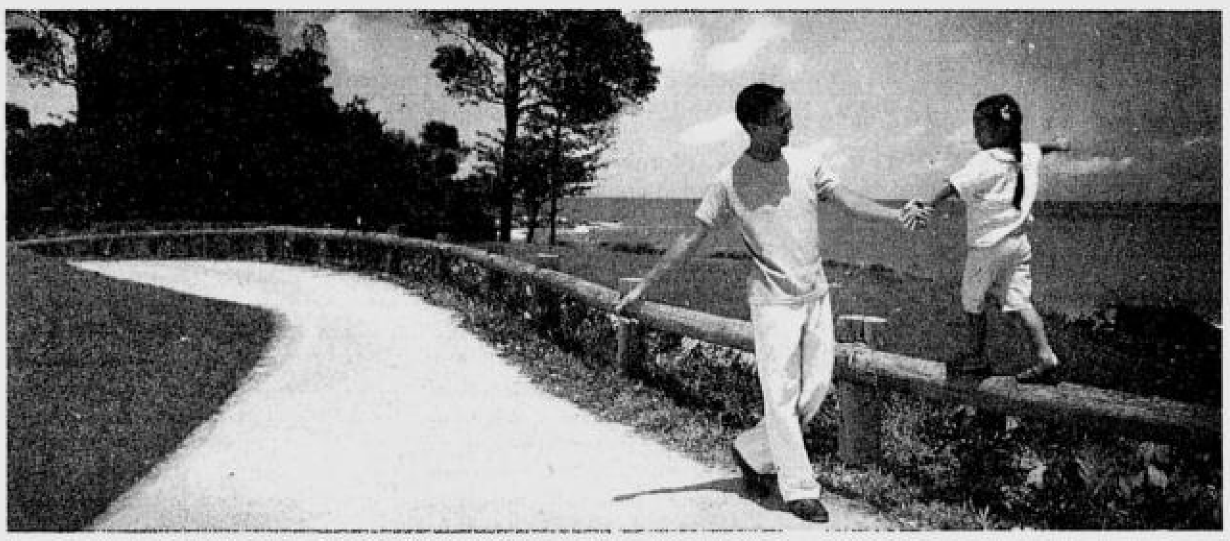

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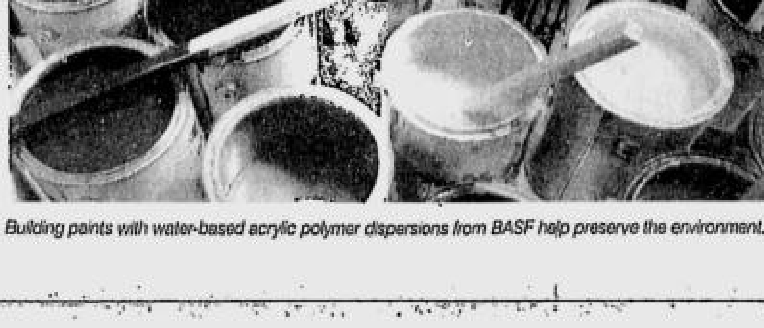

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House, Senate to hold joint probe on Basilan

BY C. PABLO
AND R. NAZARENO

THE HOUSE has agreed to hold joint hearings with the Senate to investigate allegations by Basilan priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda that certain military officers are in connivance with the Abu Sayyaf.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the Senate committee on national defense, announced the initiative yesterday, after receiving a briefing on national security issues from the defense and military top brass in Camp Aguinaldo.

At the House, however, members of the House committee on national defense crossed swords on whether to hold its first public hearing in Lamitan, Basilan, or in the national capital.

Opposition to the plan of committee chair Rep. Prospero Pichay to hold the hearing in Lamitan was raised anew when neophyte Rep. Ruffy Biazon suggested that they "instead get raw footages taken by media to help the committee in its fact-finding activity."

Committee vice chair Tomas Dumpit, who presided over the meeting in the absence of Pichay, said a hearing in Basilan "should be carefully planned so that the committee doesn't waste taxpayers' money."

The committee is scheduled to hold a hearing on Aug. 23 in Lamitan, with the military expected to give a briefing on the offensive against the Abu Sayyaf. But months of violence and a trail of dead bodies left by the bandit group has created serious doubts whether it is safe for the congressmen to go to Basilan at this time.

Monday hearing

The Senate will start its hearings on Monday and members of the House may join later in the week, according to Magsaysay.

"The hearing will be good for the military," Magsaysay said. "It will clear the air and allow the truth to come out."

Nacorda had accused Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, Col. Jovenal Narcise and three junior officers of allowing the Abu Sayyaf to slip out of a military cordon in Lamitan, Isabela, on June 2.

Nacorda said Dominguez was seen in Lamitan carrying a suitcase full of cash at the time of the bungled encirclement operation. The Abu Sayyaf bandits and their hostages were then trapped inside a hospital.

The continued failure of the Armed Forces to eliminate the Abu Sayyaf threat has given rise to calls for the resignation of both Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and AFP chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva.

But Magsaysay said the two officials were new in their respective jobs and that there's "a learning process for all concerned."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who was with Magsaysay, said he was not yet asking for resignations.

"I am raising questions, which need to be answered," said Biazon, himself a former AFP chief.

Biazon earlier said he has witnesses who can corroborate Nacorda's allegations of the military's connivance with the Abu Sayyaf.

AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan said continuing talks about Nacorda's allegations are causing demoralization among the men in the field.

"Our officers in the field are saying why don't they (critics) leave us alone," Adan said. "Here we are battling enemies in one front and here comes another hitting us from behind."

Adan said the burden of proof rests with Nacorda whose accusations have placed the entire military into question.

Capiz Rep. Fred Castro raised this point as he also questioned the "implication of pulling out military troops from other areas just to secure the congressmen who will attend the hearing."

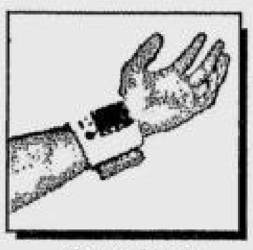
Nacorda not coming for Congress probe

LAMITAN, Basilan—Fr. Cirilo Nacorda yesterday said he will not attend the Senate inquiry on the June 2 Abu Sayyaf siege.

Narcorda instead urged the senators to conduct the inquiry here, for them to see the place where the Abu Sayyaf bandits used as escape route.

Nacorda also said witnesses who will support his claim of alleged connivance between a number of military officers and the bandits, do not have money to spend for a trip to Manila.

"Parang wala ring saysay kung pupunta ako doon. Ang ibig namin, kung may congressional inquiry, *dapat dito lahat idaos para maka-*participate *ang mga taong apektado* (It will be useless if I go there alone. What we want is, if there is a congressional inquiry, it should be held here so people who are affected can participate)," Nacorda said.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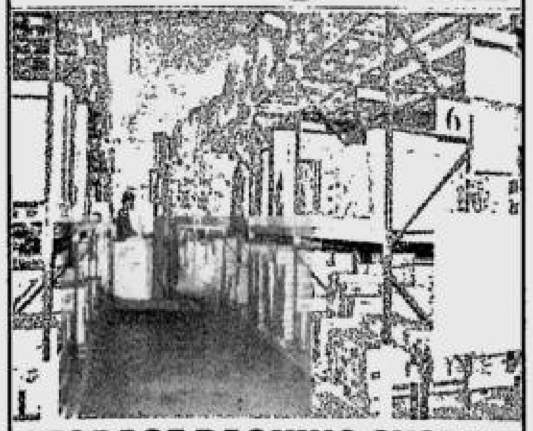
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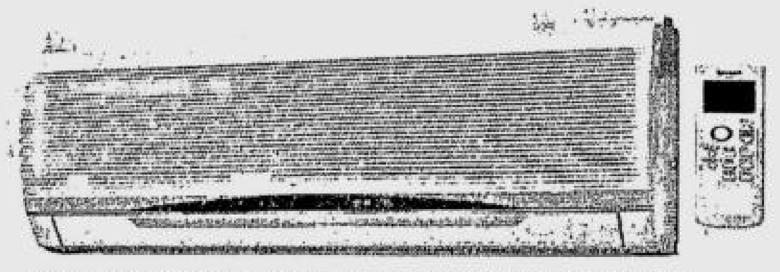
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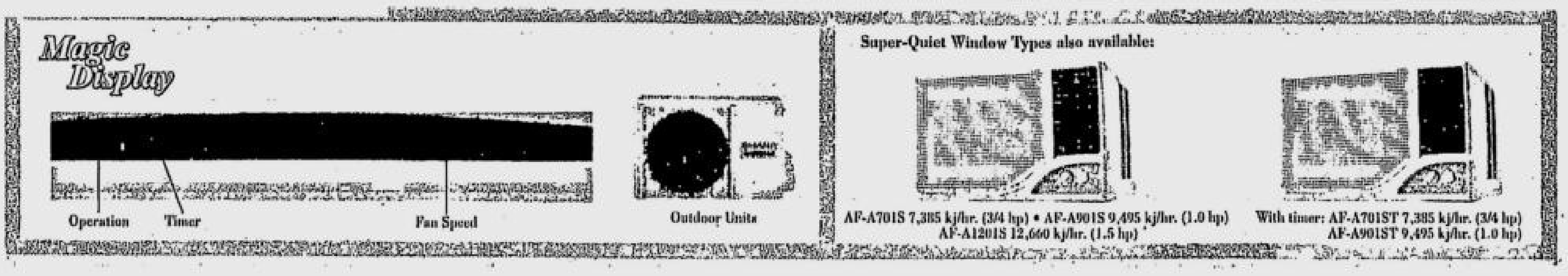

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 249
ISSN 0116-2642

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at **Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines** • Our new telephone numbers are **897-8808** connecting all departments; Editorial Fax **897-4793, 897-4794**; Advertising **897-4807**; Circulation **527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86** and **528-02-13**, Fax: **528-02-34**.

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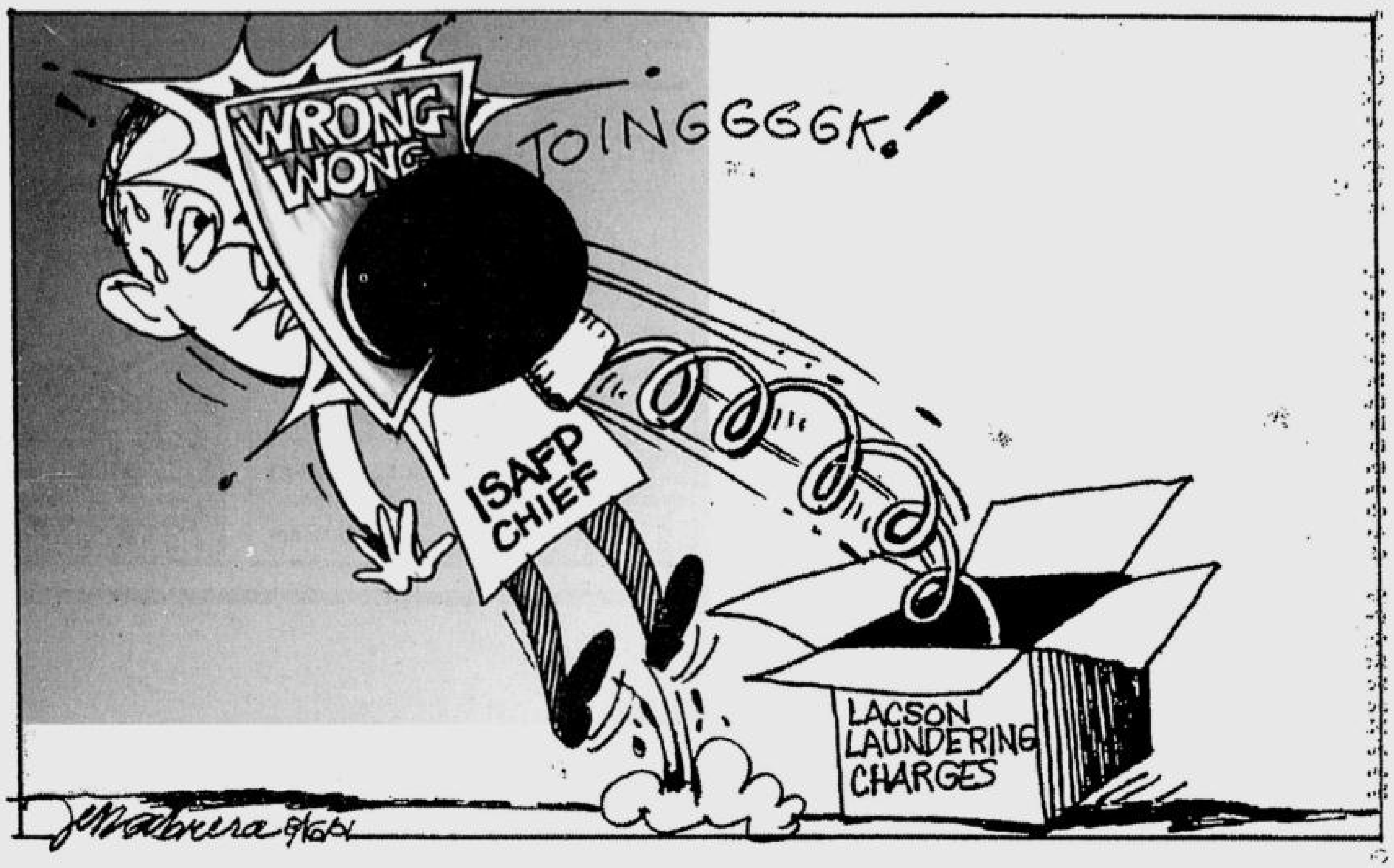

Old wounds

EDITORIALS

THE VISIT by Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to the Yasukuni Shrine to pay homage to Japan's war dead last Wednesday reopened old wounds left by the brutal sweep of the Japanese military in East Asia during World War II. Koizumi is the first Japanese prime minister to visit the shrine after Yasuhiro Nakasone in August 1985—an act that was denounced so widely that he did not repeat it.

Koizumi's visit drew strong condemnation from East Asian countries invaded by Japan. China and South Korea were the most outspoken in their condemnation that was echoed in protests in the Philippines by Filipino comfort women recruited for sex for Japanese soldiers.

The South Korean governing Millennium Democratic Party said the visit was like "throwing a dagger into our Asian country," and 20 Koreans cut off their finger tips in protest. China, where Japanese invading troops in the 1936 committed the now infamous "Rape of Nanking," said the "Japanese leader's flawed gesture has damaged the political foundations of Sino-Japanese relations."

Most of East Asia viewed the visit as an act of political insensitivity on the part of Japan, which has not formally issued an apology for the atrocities of its invading troops in World War II. They saw it as a revival of Japanese nationalism and militarism.

Koizumi tried to deflect criticism by visiting the shrine to commemorate 2.46 million Japanese war dead three days ahead of the 56th anniversary of the surrender of Japan on Aug. 15, 1945. But this compromise gesture failed to avert protests both in Japan and in the rest of Asia.

Addressing foreign critics, Koizumi issued a statement saying, "I wish, in the light of our country's regrettable history, to take this to heart, express my deepest regret and remorse toward all the victims of war."

But his conciliatory statement had little effect in dampening the resentment of the victims of war after the prime minister said he was determined to honor those who died in Japan's wars. He paid tribute to them, saying that "peace and prosperity is built upon their noble sacrifice."

This statement is a pitch for resurgent Japanese nationalism which has gained a wider constituency in the context of the prolonged Japanese economic recession and the constraints placed by the pacific 1945 Japanese Constitution on Japan's exercise of military power beyond its national territory.

The visit to the shrine is certain to hurt Japanese diplomatic relations in Asia which awaits the unfurling of Koizumi's foreign policy following his recent election as prime minister. Japan's main opposition party leader, Hukio Hatayama, said, "This may develop diplomatic problems with our neighboring countries."

The shrine is rich with symbolism of Japanese military aggression and nationalism. It houses the remains of 14 class-A war criminals and by paying honor to them together with the rest of the war dead, the prime minister can only revive antagonism in the countries that were overrun by the Japanese army.

To a segment of the Japanese people who would like to put the memory of Japanese World War II aggression behind them, Yasukuni is a Shinto shrine and was the center of state Shintoism, described by a Japanese commentator as "the creed developed and used to justify Japanese wartime militarism." The shrine was "a rallying point for the conduct of the war."

Bitter memories

UNLIKE Germany, which made a clean breast of its Nazi past by explicitly acknowledging guilt for its World War II aggression and genocide, Japan has been less than forthright in making an apology. This reticence has left a residue of hostility toward Japan many years after the war, especially in China and Korea. China, in particular, has protested against the publication of Japanese books on the Sino-Japanese war, condoning the atrocities of Japanese troops in China.

The prime minister's visit to the shrine came amid a debate in Japan over its place in a region where China is emerging as an economic and military power challenging the dominance of the United States, Japan's close military and economic ally. It also came at a time when Japan is trying to strengthen its links with Southeast Asia. That objective is hardly advanced by reviving old and bitter memories of its military past.

Enzyme turns trash into fertilizer in 20 minutes

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PING and Wong is not a comedy team. Neither is it a sport like ping-pong. Nor are they positive and negative energy forces coursing through the Chinese body like ying and yang. But they are the most talked about names in the Philippines today.

The name recall is an advertising and publicity man's fondest dream. But their unwitting PRO is not a professional marketing man. It is a soldier, who, it turns out, is also a comedian because he makes people laugh: Col. Victor Corpus, intelligence chief of the AFP.

His latest joke is that the man in a picture he showed to the media is that of a drug lord who is also a friend of Ping Lacson. That man is Kim Wong, Corpus said. He was wrong. That man is an aide of Sen. Robert Barbers, lawyer Stephen Villaflor, who may look Chinese but is a full-blooded Filipino. He is not a drug lord, either, or Barbers would have a lot of explaining to do. In newspaper lingo, the press can be said to have been "naCor(pus)yente."

Corpus admitted he had the wong Wong and apologized. Which makes people think: If Corpus could be this wong with Wong, isn't it possible he could be also that wong with Ping?

* * *

But Malacañang isn't laughing. In fact, it must have been so embarrassed that it prohibited Corpus from talking to the media, least he unleashes more embarrassing jokes. The AFP designated a spokesperson for him, Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan. He will be speaking for Corpus from hereon.

Meanwhile, the Kim Wong who is the friend of Ping (and a lot of other important people, it turns out) is not laughing either. On the contrary, he is crying. His business is suffering. People joke that the food in his Seafood Wharf restaurant at the Luneta is delicious and addictive because it is laced with shabu. His children are being ostracized in school. His friends are avoiding him. And he is afraid Corpus' men may arrest him anytime.

The world of Kim Wong (is it true he has a daughter named Suzie Wong?) is becoming smaller because he happens to have a friend named Ping.

* * *

This may be the best news for our garbage-plagued nation. Yesterday, I went to Pililla, Rizal, to witness a demonstration of an exciting new discovery that is capable of turning any organic waste into instant fertilizer in 20 minutes. It is an enzyme, derived from banana stalks, that breaks down organic waste into its basic elements which make very good fertilizer, better than commercial chemical fertilizer—and much cheaper.

In the Pililla Poultry Processing Plant, they put various chicken wastes (feathers, bones, innards, manure, even two whole dead hens) into a vat with boiling water mixed with the enzyme. Workers stir it from time to time. After 20 minutes, all the solid wastes are gone. What is left is an odorless slurry. This is poured into a mound of palay hulls and mixed with it. The rice hulls act as a binder for the liquid fertilizer. The result is a brown, soil-like fertilizer which is ready for use.

This organic fertilizer has been tested many times in rice fields and vegetable gardens. The results were much healthier plants and more than a 100-percent increase in yield. It has a better performance than compost and chemical fertilizer.

In practical terms, this means that all the organic garbage in Metro Manila, after being shredded, can be turned into fertilizer for the use of farmers and home gardeners. The garbage doesn't have to be boiled as in the demonstration; the boiling was made only to shorten the time that enzyme-water solution needed to dissolve the garbage. The organic waste can be simply dropped in containers with the enzyme solution and allowed to ferment. You can keep adding garbage until the solution becomes thick. It takes about seven days for the wastes to dissolve. That slurry is now liquid fertilizer. You can use it in liquid form by spraying it on plants or pouring it around the roots. Or you can mix it with a binder (such as rice hulls, sawdust, coconut coir, soil, lahar, shredded leaves) and use it like compost and chemical fertilizer.

In the home, just mix one part of the enzyme with four parts of water and put it in a pail or can outside the kitchen door. Put all kitchen wastes in the mixture. When the wastes are dissolved and the mixture has thickened, you can use it as fertilizer for your flower and vegetable gardens. The mixture is totally odorless.

In fact, it is a deodorant, antiseptic, and kitchen cleanser. The inventor, Odilon T. Sta. Teresa, president of Waste Wise International, also makes organic bath soap using the enzyme and carrots. It is called carrot soap and is pink in color. Users swear that it eliminates body odor, cures cuts, scratches and other skin infections. What's more, it has a sweet perfumed scent. The liquid enzyme, on the other hand, is a good deodorizer and cleanser for the kitchen and bathroom.

* * *

But the best potential for the enzyme is as a cheap fertilizer for the use of farmers. Because it can be used in liquid form, it would be easy to use in rice fields. It can be sprayed alone or mixed with pesticides on the rice plants. You fertilize and kill pests with one spraying. If the field is irrigated, you simply put a container in the irrigation canal, gradually releasing the fertilizer into the irrigation water. No need to broadcast the solid fertilizer by hand as farmers now do with chemical fertilizer.

What's more, we may have finally found a useful solution to our garbage problem. With the enzyme, the ideal arrangement is to segregate the garbage into the organic and nonbiodegrable. But even with mixed garbage, the enzyme can be used.

Exceptions to the rule

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

RAMIRO F. Esteban, a resident of Anaheim, California, wrote a very interesting letter in BusinessWorld the other day. He quoted something I wrote a while back to the effect that Filipinos adapt marvelously to their environment, rising to heights of industry and discipline when they are in other countries. I suppose he must be referring to my column on the Filipino genius, where I said that the ability of Filipinos to flourish elsewhere clearly suggests that it's not genes but system that make us make a mess of ourselves.

Esteban wondered why if this was true since our embassy people in Los Angeles seemed not to have heard about it. He recounted going to the consulate one fine Thursday to get a document notarized. After going through the process, he waited at the cashier's office to pay the requisite $25. This was shortly after noon, so he waited for the cashier to come back from her lunch break. She didn't do so until 1:30 p.m. Before then, said Esteban, a foreigner who also had been waiting for her gave up and left, throwing his hands in the air exasperatedly.

Esteban himself was stunned when the cashier told him to come back the following Monday for his document. He told her, "You really should take your work more seriously." It didn't help.

Esteban went back to another window, apprised the fellow there of the urgency of his purpose, and was told to wait until 4 p.m. Esteban did, and happily for him, his document was signed by Consul Ma. Lourdes Bello by then.

Not so lucky were two elderly persons who came shortly after Esteban. One came all the way from Las Vegas and the other from San Clemente, which is halfway from San Diego to LA. Both begged not to be made to come back, as it was a long trip for them. To no avail. The consulate people were adamant, saying they could do nothing about it. Notarizing documents took all of two working days, they said.

He knew it wasn't true, said Esteban, because he had a document notarized by the same office several years ago and it took only a couple of hours. The acknowledgment form, he said, was standard, and it could be printed out anytime from their PCs. Affixing the gold seal and red ribbon could not possibly take more than five minutes. And how long did it take to sign documents?

Well, there are always exceptions to the rule. But I don't know that embassies are really exceptions, since they are enclaves unto themselves to begin with. If they are exceptions at all, they are exceptions only in the broader sense that they are not part of the territory of the countries where they stand. They are part of the territory of their country of origin. They are ceded property, by universal agreement. American authorities may not break into a Philippine consulate even with a search warrant, any more than they may break into any home in Luzon, Visayas or Mindanao to arrest anybody.

Of course, the people who work in embassies live outside of them, in various parts of the country where they are. And do imbibe the culture of the place, particularly Filipinos whose capacity for "playing a country by ear" is completely intuitive. I've been to Philippine embassies in other countries where the officials and staff are reasonably efficient, if not friendly. But unfortunately that is not always the case. More often than not, the legal insulation of Philippine embassies is matched by a cultural insulation, something a "Protestant" work ethic is unable to penetrate.

To begin with, the staff of Philippine embassies does not answer to a boss who will fire them for being the object of repeated complaints of customers. Most are overworked and underpaid, but they gladly accepted the assignment, or resolutely sought it, particularly in America, for a crack at eventually taking residence there either as a "TNT" or a legal immigrant, whichever is possible. Some, including the officials themselves, are appointees, who got their posts not always on the basis of their qualifications. Being given the power to deal with nationals in foreign countries does not always bring out the best in them, it often brings out the worst. Petty power makes for petty tyranny.

But the fact that Filipinos thrive well in other countries, easily adapting to a system that rewards punctuality, hard work and discipline you see in people like Ramiro Esteban. They're the ones who, working and living in an environment that make punctuality, hard work and discipline routine expectations, demand of themselves and their compatriots that they hark to the same things. Or as Esteban put it, that they take their jobs more seriously. You get paid, you do your job. It's a simple equation, but one that is often lost on us, for whom getting paid has no visible connection to doing our job.

None of this is to say that we would be better off abandoning our culture altogether and becoming more American, or British, or Japanese, in spirit if not in body, to succeed in life. Or that Filipinos who have thoroughly assimilated their ways in those countries are perfectly admirable. All this is merely to say that we would be better off abandoning some of those traits in our culture that militate against progress. Or never mind progress, *magandang asal*, which at bottom means consideration for other people. Being punctual, doing one's work diligently and obeying the laws cannot possibly make us less Filipino. Certainly, being late, making people wait in line or for two days for a simple document, and routinely violating traffic rules cannot possibly make us more Filipino. They can only make us, as people in other countries so graphically put it, more assholes.

Even Filipinos who work outside our consulates continue to cling to some of our unsavory traits. Last week, I was invited to a meeting of a burgeoning Filipino press club in San Francisco. Only to discover there were three Filipino press clubs in San Francisco, not including other smaller, vanity, ones. But that's another story.

Let Corpus confront real Kim Wong in Senate

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE DISPLAY by Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the AFP, of the wrong photo of Kim Wong, whom he has accused of being the point man of the notorious Hong Kong triad here, was a setback for him. It was truly unfortunate since it gave his detractors ammunition to attack his credibility. To Corpus belongs the near-impossible task of producing solid evidence on an issue as sticky as hot money, which he has accused Sen. Panfilo Lacson of stashing abroad. Corpus was quick to own his mistake and even apologized to the man in the photo, lawyer Stephen Villaflor, a staffer of Sen. Robert Barbers, now dubbed by the media as "Kim Wrong."

* * *

But this mistake shouldn't detract one bit from the real issues here, which are: Is Lacson guilty of the various crimes of which he is being accused by a horde of detractors? Is he really into drug trafficking and money laundering? It shouldn't distract the Senate from the need to pursue the Lacson case. In fact it's a good opportunity to put Corpus on the witness stand and confront the real Kim Wong in the Senate. Let the real Kim Wong now stand up to be recognized, if he's really just the restaurateur-businessman that government officials and the media know him to be. Recall that even before the elections, Manila mayoralty candidates Lito Atienza and Alfredo Lim were accusing each other of being the original coddler of Kim Wong.

Now that the storm over the organization of the Senate seems to have abated, Senate President Franklin Drilon should lose no time in pursuing those two resolutions filed by Senators Ramon Revilla and Barbers before the committees on public order and justice, respectively, to investigate the accusations leveled against Lacson by Ador Mawanay and Ramon Tulfo. The Senate should now start the joint hearings of those committees and get to the bottom of these accusations and the hot money issue raised by Corpus.

* * *

Every Sunday evening at 9:15, I co-host with Cecile Guidote-Alvarez a radio program over dzRH, which we devote exclusively to various programs by the private sector to help alleviate poverty. We thought that in the face of so much negativism, why not zero in on positive efforts? In the process, we have discovered many inspiring stories about individual unselfishness and dedication to helping the poor. It's these stories that fill us with hope and make us realize that the country's future lies in the hands of the largely unknown and unsung citizens, not the politicians or the bureaucrats.

* * *

Recently, People's Credit & Finance Corp. (PCFC) executive vice president Joey Medina, who was a guest in our show, promised to invite a PCFC client who represents one of the biggest success stories in micro-lending to the poor. "*Matutuwa kayo sa* story *ni* Aris Alip and the Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD)," Medina promised. Last Sunday Jaime Aristotle Alip and his wife, Annie, showed up at dzRH, and what a success story theirs is. In my book Aris Alip, who has a doctorate in economics, should get the Ramon Magsaysay award for community service.

Since 1988, when the Alips started with about 50 small borrowers using their personal funds, this NGO (which also became a rural bank in 1997) has served over 42,000 rural poor borrowers in the provinces of Laguna, Quezon, Masbate, Marinduque and the two Mindoros. If the savers who have deposited with the CARD bank were to be counted, the number would swell to over 80,000 people. So buoyed are the Alips with the success of their venture that they plan to expand to Bicol soon. This is good for that area is one of the poorest in the country.

To qualify as a CARD borrower, one must have a per capita income of P1,000 a month and assets of not more than P100,000. About 35,000 of the current borrowers are women, and Alip admits to a bias for women borrowers, because they are far more conscientious in paying than men. This is borne out by the amazing fact that CARD's rate of repayment for the last 12 years has been 99.98 percent. But the good thing is that once a venture is successful, the men are drawn in and it becomes a family business.

* * *

By now, CARD has extended about P300 million in loans to these borrowers, who all began with P3,000 loans payable in six months. But the beauty of it is that these borrowers have also become savers in the bank, to the tune of about P170 million. In addition, as Alip pointed out, many of them have shown that "there's life after micro-finance." After 10 years, many have graduated from small ventures such as *sari-sari* stores, piggery and poultry to manufacturing and other forms of entrepreneurship.

* * *

Among the many factors in Alip's success are tight organization and a support system. After studying the Grameen micro-lending system set up by Muhammad Yunus in Bangladesh in the 1970s, Alip adapted it to Philippine culture, which thrives on very strong solidarity below. Borrowers coming from the same neighborhood are organized into cells of five, with a few cells forming a center. Before they are given loans they undergo training and value formation, supervised by some 400 officers led by Dory Torres and Lorenza Bañez. Values such as thriftiness and savings, hygiene, health and God-centeredness are emphasized, and the ties are preserved in weekly meetings of the center. "Because micro-finance credit for the poor is a very serious undertaking, *kailangan ang subaybay at alalay*," says Alip.

* * *

Peer pressure operates to keep them up to date on their repayment. If someone defaults, the others in the cell cannot borrow; if one cell fails, the entire center is jeopardized. Loans start without collateral from P3,000 payable in six months, at 20-percent interest per annum with a 4-percent service fee. Alip explains that their loans carry interest inasmuch as CARD borrows its operating capital from the PCFC and has access to the World Bank's Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest. If borrowers maintain a good track record, they become eligible for bigger loans: depending on their performance, they can qualify after five years for "clap loans" of up to P150,000. Today there are 22 such "gold-card members."

Alip says that from the time a small loan is made, it takes five to seven years to rescue a household from the clutches of poverty. He should be happy that the organization he has built up over the past 13 years has evolved the true meaning of development and that he is helping to empower a nation from the grass roots.

Why the free cell phone?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

SEN. Panfilo Lacson might have "scored" a hit when Isafp chief Col. Victor Corpus was forced to publicly admit that he made a mistake in holding up the "Wong" picture of the man who is allegedly Lacson's drug connection in Hong Kong.

But questions remain about Lacson's own explanations about Kim Wong and the senator's ties to someone he describes as a businessman who has never worn a tie in his life.

Corpus has linked Lacson to drug trafficking, saying they had traced calls made on the senator's cell phone to a certain Kim Wong who had ties to a drug smuggling syndicate based in Hong Kong. Lacson dismissed the charges outright, saying Corpus had the wrong Wong, and the Kim Wong he knew was a friend who had "merely" given him the cell phone as a gift and was paying for his cell phone bills.

What we must ask at this point is what Lacson, who was PNP director general before he successfully ran for the Senate, was doing accepting a freebie from a private individual, even if he really is "just" a businessman. And not just a free cell phone, but free cell-phone charges for an indefinite period, it seems. Is it SOP for law enforcement officials to accept "gifts" from businesspeople? In exchange for what?

Was the PNP or even the PAOCTF so bereft of funds that they couldn't provide the highest police officer his own cell phone? And isn't Lacson's salary as a senator enough to cover his cell phone bills? Why can't he just pay for his calls with pre-paid cards like thousands of *bagets* all over the country?

* * *

FOR A BUSINESSMAN in the garments and restaurant business, Kim Wong's name seems to be linked to the drugs trade too often for comfort.

At the height of the electoral campaign for mayor of Manila, the incumbent (and ultimately victorious) Mayor Lito Atienza and his predecessor Fred Lim traded charges of coddling a drug lord. And the alleged drug lord was no other than Kim Wong.

The two even exchanged barbs as to who first introduced Wong to whom. This produced a side controversy when the first heated exchange of accusations, during the taping of a TV "debate" show, was later edited out of the final footage. "Libelous," the show host described the exchange, even if the explosive revelations would have undoubtedly ratcheted up its ratings.

Unfortunately, both Atienza and Lim dropped the Wong matter after the elections. But Atienza has certainly proven beyond doubt that his is the more enduring friendship. The mayor, who had no compunction about tearing down the Jai Alai building because it was a symbol of vice, joined other city officials in defending Wong and proclaiming his innocence. Quite substantial returns for the humble investment of campaign T-shirts, I must say.

Whatever he turns out to be—drug courier, influence peddler between the Chinese community and officialdom, or plain old businessman—Kim Wong has certainly proven his formidable connections to powerful folks. For someone who has never worn a tie in his life, that's really getting on in the world.

* * *

FROM A FRIEND, Boy Estember, comes this call to members of the UST College of Commerce, Class of '76, who are silver jubilarians in next month's celebration of the General Alumni Homecoming.

The homecoming will be held on Sept. 21 at the New World Hotel. Boy says he doesn't know if the choice of the date is a mere coincidence or if it's meant "to lend credence to the fact that we were martial law freshmen when we first entered the college." Tickets are available at P700 each from the organizing committee who can be contacted at this e-mail address: mailto:swing76@yahoogroups.com. Interested alumni can also call up: Tenny Menorca, 886-3084; Angie Gonzaga, 893-7057; Prof. Fe Bruselas, UST Commerce Alumni Foundation adviser, Telefax No. 781-6629, Tel. No. 731-3101 local 8374; or Princess Imperial, 894-5429. The theme of the gathering is "Swinging '76," which says it all, I guess, about how cheesy was the decade that followed the magical '60s.

* * *

BOY'S *pakiusap* actually jolted me into the realization that my own class in the College of Arts and Letters also of UST is celebrating its silver jubilee this year as well. While I've kept in touch with a number of classmates, many of whom remain part of our no-longer-young, not-so-innocent "Sisterhood," I've lost touch with many others. It would certainly be interesting to find out what we all did with our journalism degrees. As Boy, who was a fellow staff member at the Varsitarian, the student newspaper, points out, we were martial law freshmen in college, and by the time we graduated, martial law restrictions on the press were still in full force. How many of us went into the media profession despite the barriers? And how many of us have remained? Among those who didn't choose to practice the profession, what other fields drew their talents and energy? I for one am dying to know. So, this may seem like a foolhardy request, but would the members of the UST AB Journalism Class '76 want to get in touch and try to organize a get-together of sorts?

You may e-mail me here at the INQUIRER, leave your contact numbers and let's see what we can do by way of a reunion. Nothing much like the Commerce graduates' bash, which sounds like a terribly organized affair, but then again, that's why we majored in journalism, right? If we wanted to manage our lives after graduation with all the efficiency of a PDA, we'd have gone for the money.

* * *

Comments are welcome at rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Tony Zumel: journalist, unionist, revolutionary

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

ANTONIO Ma. Zumel, 69, wrote 30 last Monday, Aug. 13.

Newsman, unionist, revolutionary. This is what the blurb on the cover of the underground publication Liberation said of Zumel, the man on its cover. The 1986 issue of Liberation used a May 23, 1971 photo of the newsman speaking in Plaza Miranda, surrounded by anti-Marcos streamers and symbols. With his arm outstretched and his finger pointing to the crowd, neatly dressed, his hair in place and sporting sideburns, Zumel cut a handsome figure.

Liberation also ran Zumel's abbreviated memoirs.

I first met Zumel in 1986, shortly after the People Power Revolt, during his first underground press briefing. He was about to emerge into the light at that time after spending more than 10 years in the shadows. Before that, I only knew him as a whispered name and a portrait in the gallery of the National Press Club of which he had been president twice. I attended his first press briefing in a UG house, filled with curiosity about how a journalist-turned-Marxist-revolutionary who eluded capture looked and spoke.

I got to drink one bottle of beer with him in December 1986 during the clandestine wedding of two cadres where he officiated. I took a photo of him surrounded by San Miguel beer bottles. I was there, not because I was a card-carrying member of the underground movement (I never was and could never be), but because I had to write a New Year's story on that wedding where the bride and groom were draped with a hammer-and-sickle flag and raised fists instead of wine glasses. That was a time when peace was on everybody's lips.

Zumel vanished again after that and kept in touch through letters to the editor. (I have kept a clipping.) We then learned that he joined his comrades in self-exile in the Netherlands. But even while there, he remained in the background, leaving the speaking, the pontificating and the frothing in the mouth to lesser mortals.

Zumel is considered one of the founders of the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF). At the time of his death, he was perhaps the oldest in the leftist revolutionary movement, that is, if the ones from the old Communist Party were to be excluded. One of Zumel's underground aliases was "Nonong."

Tony Zumel was in the leadership of the underground movement, while his younger brother, Gen. Jose Ma. Zumel (whom he called Yob) was a trusted Marcos man who belonged to the military top brass. The Brothers Zumel was a story in itself.

Zumel's career as a newsman started at the Philippines Herald where he rose from copy boy to proofreader to reporter. He was president of the National Press Club for two successive terms beginning 1971, at the time when the NPC was a voice of political dissent and an advocate of press freedom. (The NPC is now a tattered version—literally and figuratively—of its old glorious self.)

Zumel worked "under such crackerjack editors, copy readers and reporters" as Joe Lansang, Osi Abad Santos, Caring Nuguid, Teddy Benigno, Teodoro Valencia and Chitang Nakpil, among many. He worked during the day and studied in the Lyceum of the Philippines at night. The ones he considered most supportive of him were Nuguid and Tec Techian who regaled him with stories about former copyboys who had gone on to become good reporters. Amando Doronila, then with the Daily Mirror and Manila Chronicle (now with the INQUIRER), was among his colleagues. Zumel learned a lot about newspapering right in the newsroom and by reading journalism books.

Zumel's involvement in unionism in the Soriano-owned publishing business and later in a paralyzing strike made him see things from the eyes of the working class. He later moved to another newspaper where he worked briefly as an editor.

Recalled Zumel: "That was how matters stood when, on the night of Sept. 22, 1972, I got a call from our (defense) reporter, Joe de Vera. Enrile had been ambushed. (In 1986, Enrile confessed that the ambush was fake.—CPD) I told Joe the whole thing sounded like a lot of bullshit.

"That night, I was quaffing beer with friends at the NPC bar when soldiers swooped down on mass media offices...and padlocked all of them. I went underground that same night."

Zumel's big regret was that martial law overtook plans to set up a federation of mass media unions.

After Marcos declared martial law, Zumel joined the communist-led underground movement and helped organize the National Democratic Front (NDF) together with people like Satur Ocampo and Carolina "Bobbie" Malay who were journalists like him. While many top leaders of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the NDF would later be captured and tortured by the military and detained once or several times for long stretches, Zumel always eluded arrest. He was a member of the national executive committee of the NDF.

Zumel surfaced after the fall of the Marcos dictatorship in 1986. He participated as consultant in the peace talks between the newly installed Aquino government and the CPP-NDF. After the talks broke down, Zumel returned to the underground. He left the Philippines clandestinely in 1989 and stayed in Europe along with "exiles" CCP head Jose Ma. Sison, NDF chair Luis Jalandoni and several others and their families. At the time of his death, Zumel was considered chairman emeritus of the NDF.

Zumel was reported to have suffered from failing health these past several years. His eldest son from a previous marriage died last year. He came home last June—in a wheelchair—to attend a peace conference sponsored by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and the National Council of Churches. A few weeks ago he returned to the Netherlands, his health still unimproved, or maybe made even worse by the state of affairs in this country he called home.

And so, 30, he wrote, and he went on to the Great Peace Conference in the Sky.

Bridges

Mayumi E. Canuto

YOUNGBLOOD

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT'S like crossing the bridge to Kanawan all over again—this time only in the mind. But it's scarier than the real thing. I'd rather be out there in Morong crossing the hanging bridge to Aeta territory again. Back then, the sense of mission was strong and gave me courage. Now I think it is the blurring of the sense of mission that's making me step back, taking too long to decide whether I'd venture forth or not. The course demands that you go forward.

Same thing with life—you have gone so far, don't let some bridge over a raging river diminish your strength and resolve. Move on.

I have not seen the infamous Lawrence Ong of Kanawan for almost six years now. Funny how I was reminded of him by an essay in Joaquin Sy's book, "Chopsuey," some time in March or April. The memories just came flooding back to me: the resolve of that man, who, after the comings and goings of volunteers in the area, still managed to go on by his lonesome to help the community build a school. Way back in 1995 when I went to Kanawan for the first time, he was trying to develop a plumbing system in the Aeta community by himself. Earlier on, he had been assigned as a Jesuit volunteer in that place. His term as a volunteer ended but his spirit of volunteerism did not.

I tell you this man is simply incredible. The last time I saw him, he was ailing from a cataract hidden by thick spectacles. Despite his bad eyesight, he could still traverse the mountains at night, through rain and high grass.

Physically, he did not look like Superman or any mountain hero. He was so lean, with a slight stoop and squinting eyes. One could actually mistake him for a Chemistry professor.

Now he is of a much slighter constitution. One can see his pallid skin hanging from his bones, with whites of his eyes matching his yellow skin.

Tim Gabuna, a Jesuit Volunteers board director, described Lawrence very well: "His body is very much changed, but the presence, the mind is very much there."

I agree. There is no sluggishness, no slowness. His eyes grow wide when something you say catches his attention, sparks his fancy, triggers a happy memory, or elicits his sympathy. One is led to think that perhaps the body broke down because it could not quite catch up with the mind.

He was given six months to live since its discovery. He has already exceeded it. He thinks of his scrapbook and the trust fund for volunteers. His sister Josie serves as his runner. The body gave up on the owner, yes, but the mind found a way.

I talked of bridges and fighting vertigo. He's suffering from liver cancer—advanced. How does one cross that bridge? I really didn't know. But it seemed to me that he knew his way around that one too.

He asked me how I was. I said that I was crossing a hanging bridge of the mind (but definitely not'as high as his). His mind worked fast again, offering solutions. I wanted him to rest, but how could I? I simply said, "Things will be all right. They always do."

Even if I was scared and felt I had nowhere to go, I actually meant what I said. "Always remember when problems are so big and your strength is no longer enough to carry them, don't give up, (for) where your strength ends, the grace of God begins." One of those text messages I received that cannot be classified as garbage.

Things will be all right. We make the hanging bridges but He made the mountains. We could find ways crossing them but He could make the mountains meet. When my bridges collapse, I know God's hand will be there to catch me.

Same with Lawrence. Would anybody like to see him fall down the precipice? Deep in our hearts we want him to defy gravity. That kind of spirit deserves to soar.

His final wish was that we help keep the spirit of volunteerism alive. That kind of spirit, come to think of it, makes hanging bridges unnecessary. It gives wings to those who have it.

Mayumi E. Canuto, 26, is a graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University and works as an alumni database coordinator at Miriam College.

In touch with myself

Marie Antoinette Mijaro

AFTER VISITING the bookstore on a not-so-warm afternoon, I decided to take a walk back to the office. I figured walking was a form of exercise, not to mention the fact that I could save money by not taking a cab. That 10-minute walk along the busy streets of Makati proved to be different.

It was unusually windy that day. The sun was shining brightly but its heat was not the kind that pierced the skin. The wind felt good on my cheeks and I didn't care if it was playing with my hair. It was like I was close to nature as I walked under the trees in the park along Gamboa Street. For the first time, it felt nice to walk alone because for a moment there, I had the chance to get in touch with myself.

Soon I was talking to myself in my mind. I wondered what would happen to me in the next few minutes, days, weeks or even years. What will be the first thing that I will do when I arrive at the office? Will I get accepted to the university where I've applied for post-graduate studies? When will the time come when I don't have to walk from place to place because I already have my own flashy car? What movie will I watch this weekend? When will I have the money to buy that Ralph Lauren bag? When will I become a millionaire? Oh, the take-out food I bought is getting cold; will it still taste good when I eat it?

I didn't know how to answer these and many other questions that came to my mind. But I didn't care. Maybe I didn't know the answers yet. I was content just asking them as I pondered on a lot of things.

I even imagined myself sipping coffee while reading the papers at a cozy coffee shop—and in Italy yet! I also daydreamed of walking the busy streets of New York City. Hey! It's not bad to hope and wish that someday, I'd be visiting every country in the world. At that time I was in two places in just a matter of seconds.

It's wishful thinking, I know, but nothing's wrong with it because it serves as a goal for a person to achieve. For me, that's how it works. It even gives me a sense of contentment and it extracts creative juices from my mind.

While walking, I even started to appreciate the beauty of the flowers and lush greenery in the middle of a busy city. The surroundings were clean because the metro aide had just finished sweeping the cigarette butts, candy wrappers and other trash.

I was suddenly awakened from my reverie when I saw the building where I worked. The wind was still blowing on my cheeks. And I was surprised that I didn't feel tired at all. It was a 10-minute walk on a sunny afternoon, and I didn't even perspire. I was feeling great.

That walk didn't make me richer or bring me closer to Italy. It didn't help me decide what I would do first when I got back to work or supply answers to the questions that came to mind. But still I was able to "talk" to myself and somehow I had the chance to get in touch with my inner being, my inner self, the self that takes time out to appreciate the beauty and color of the flowers and knows how to listen to what is not said.

Now I've discovered the simple joys of walking alone. It burns calories and it takes your mind off exasperating newspaper headlines. And it makes you feel good to know that you have two wonderful feet to take you where you want to go.

I promised that I will do it again. I will listen to my thoughts while taking a walk.

Marie Antoinette Mijaro, 22, works as a writer for a public relations agency in Makati.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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Three big moneymakers and one big loser

AN INQUIRER story last Aug. 10 titled, "Southern Energy tops list of biggest moneymakers," put Southern Energy Holdings at No.1 with P8.5 billion; Southern Energy Quezon at No.4 with P6.2 billion; and Southern Energy Pangasinan at No. 5 with P5.2 billion.

The latter two are the Pagbilao (Quezon) and Sual (Pangasinan) power plants of Southern Energy, which used to be Hopewell plants built and operated by the Consolidated Electric Power of Asia (Cepa), which was formerly owned by Gordon Wu until he was bought out (more likely bailed out) by Southern Energy. These companies own the juiciest of the controversial Independent Power Producers contracts that should have been reduced, renegotiated or cancelled under Senate Resolution 720 which was passed during the last Congress. These companies are the lucky beneficiaries of the infamous minimum off-take contracts that have buried the National Power Corp. (Napocor) in mountains of debts.

It is no coincidence then that in the column of biggest money losers, the Napocor tops the list with P12.9 billion in losses. According to the Napocor's books, before the settlement of minimum off-take contracts like Southern Energy, the state power firm was making a modest profit. After settling the minimum off-take, the Napocor showed very heavy losses.

And what is this minimum off-take? This is the guaranteed amount the Napocor pays Southern Energy, whether the power is delivered or not.

In other words, a company that gets paid for something it does not even produce must be swimming in oodles of money, "despite the economic and political upheavals that rocked the country."

A company that pays for something it does not even get, must not only be stupid, but it must be wallowing in stink and debt.

If Southern Energy must gloat, at least it should tell the whole truth and nothing but.

If consumers must get it where it hurts most, at least they should know how and why.—**PETE L. ILAGAN, president, National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reforms Inc., Unit 616 Roxas Seafront Garden Townhomes, Roxas Boulevard cor. Ortigas Street, Pasay City**

Oppositionist, not obstructionist

MAY I reply to Fredie T. Sibal and Juan Roberto Corrales for their letters to the editor published last Aug. 13, condemning me for my new role as the minority leader in the Senate today.

I respect their right to berate me for what they think is a betrayal of the interests of the Filipino people or for any reason they can imagine. I would like to say, however, that I have not betrayed the people's interests or anybody's legitimate interests at all. On the contrary, all my actuations so far jibe not only with the principles I have espoused since the Marcos years but also with the principles of sound democratic practice.

They charge me with being an "obstructionist." I'd like to ask how have I obstructed any pro-people program or project of the administration. If they can show but one such administration program or project that I "obstructed," I would plead guilty.

But such is not the case. Apparently the two gentlemen do not see the fine line distinguishing an "obstructionist" from an "oppositionist." I am not and will not be an "obstructionist" even as I am now the Senate minority leader. I will only be an oppositionist, independent, pro-people and responsible.

I will try my level best despite the carpings of the likes of Sibal and Corrales, assuming either or both exist, to stand up to the administration on matters of corruption and wrongdoing even at the risk of offending them and those who think like them.

I feel that I owe it to our people to do so as I was not elected by the people to say only what pleases the administration or to be silent even if irregularities stare us in the face.

Some final points. Friends tell me they have written the INQUIRER to say something positive in my defense. Their letters never saw print. I also think that the opinion page of the INQUIRER shows its bias by prominently captioning letters against me with my family name. It did not accord me that honor in the letters I have sent to explain my side in the controversy over my new role as the minority leader of the Senate which thankfully, anyway, it also published.

Lastly, the premises of Sibal's and Corrales' tirades against me are completely out of sync with reality. And as Corrales invites me to say, let me state outright that "it just ain't so, man."—**SEN. AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR., Office of the Minority Leader, 6th Floor, Senate, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City**

TO OUR best recollection, we have published more letters from the senator than any other public official, bar none. So how biased can we get?—**Ed.**

Better ways to spend Sundays than doing ROTC

rahirap
BUWAGIN!
ANAKBAYAN
dagdag
ROTC
BUWAGIN

THIS is with reference to the letter of the Association of General and Flag Officers (Agfo) published last Aug. 2, 2001, where the generals urged reforms in the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC).

We would like to clarify our "emotion-driven" proposal for the abolition of the ROTC program, if things are not that clear or rational to retired Brig. Gen. Ernesto Gidaya. Thousands of students from Baguio to General Santos City have walked out of their Sunday training formations, not only out of sheer passion and agitation, but out of reasonable disgust and valid frustration over wasting time under the scorching sun and letting arrogant ROTC martinets make us conform with their idea of military training and discipline. There are better and more rational ways to spend Sundays. And when we see and experience crude corruption by officers and commandants, we can understand why the government and the military are full of crooks, because the ROTC served as the training ground for it.

The murder of Mark Chua, who sought to prove the charges against the ROTC and its handlers, makes it more revolting. What can be the most valid "moral considerations" against the ROTC are the young lives lost and the erosion of our morals.

We believe we can render a far more "distinguished service" to the Filipino people even if we don't go through forced military training in our schools. We develop social responsibility when we learn to care enough for the less privileged, the abused children and women, the environment, among others, and to act on them now, not play soldiers.

The wounds are that deep. That is why a *rigodon* of commandants, the establishment of complaint centers and promises of mediocre reforms won't solve any of our woes. The most apt and radical reform we can ask is the abolition of the ROTC from our schools.—**CRISTINA PALABAY, national president, National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) and convenor, Abolish! (national network for the abolition of ROTC) 1217-E Ibarra cor. Dapitan Sts., Sampaloc, Manila**

Where will poor patients go for treatment?

MY friend's 2-year-old daughter was hospitalized recently due to encephalitis (viral brain inflection). The child initially was admitted to the Far Eastern University Hospital as a pay patient, but after a week or so the family decided to transfer the child to the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) for financial reasons. To our surprise, the PCMC, a government-funded hospital, charges more than the FEU Hospital, which is a private hospital. For a pay room, the PCMC charges P500 a day compared to P400 at the FEU Hospital.

Adding insult to injury, the resident doctor scolded my friend, claiming the PCMC is not a public hospital, and being government-funded doesn't mean that the PCMC offers cheaper services. When the PCMC refused to admit the child as a charity patient, the family was forced to return the child to the FEU Hospital as a charity patient, but not before paying P600 to the PCMC for emergency room fee.

Checking on other government hospitals, we found out that it is not only the PCMC that charges for services that were previously given free. Outpatient clients have to cough up P10 for a card, and between P150 and P200 for an X-ray. Hospitalized charity patients only receive P1,000 worth of medication and laboratory fees and anything in excess have to be paid for by the poor patient. In devolved government hospitals in the provinces, patients in the emergency room have to pay even for cotton balls and gauze pads.

Poor patients go to government hospitals precisely because they don't have the money to pay private hospitals. When government hospitals embark on revenue enhancement programs by charging for every supply and service, where will the poor patients go? Worse, if these government hospitals were to be privatized, where, again, would the poor people go?

Despite the unpleasant experience, my friend's daughter has recovered. The experience reflects the inability of the government to respond to the people's health needs. The people whose taxes pay the people in government and government hospitals should not tolerate these things.—**CONNIE GUNDAYAO, 233 Mayon cor. N. Roxas Streets, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City**

Poorer

FAMILY incomes are down and poverty incidence has increased. That's the gist of the findings coming out of the latest Family Income and Expenditures Survey (FIES) conducted in the year 2000.

The 2000 FIES results are disturbing since this is the first time since 1986 that poverty levels have increased. Of course, some people can say that even between 1986 and 2000, the decrease in poverty levels hasn't been that dramatic. I agree, and would say that's why we should be even more concerned: we've moved so slowly in poverty reduction and yet we find those minimal gains can be so easily wiped out.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

The reasons for the decline between 1997 and 2000 are well known: the Asian financial crisis, El Niño and La Niña. It's tempting, as well, to blame the Erap administration but it's hard to measure the extent of the damage that came from his stint as president.

Instead of dwelling on Erap, we have to figure out what we're going to do as we enter a new international crisis more serious than the previous "Asian flu." The United States and Japan, two of the world's largest economies, are struggling through rather bad cases of "economic flu." Extending the medical metaphor, when those economies sneeze, the world comes down with pneumonia.

We're already seeing some of the signs; even neighboring Singapore, which emerged relatively unscathed from the Asian flu, is now in danger of going into recession. The Philippines' export sector, so heavily dependent on the United States and Japan, has been hit hard. In June alone, our export earnings dived 24.7 percent compared with that same month last year. The decrease is the highest in the region and translates into loss of jobs and companies shutting down.

Let's jump back into the FIES findings and look at some of the other trends. First, there's the matter of incomes. Between 1997 and 2000, the average family income rose to P144,506, an increase of 17.3 percent over 1997. Sounds good, except that inflation over the three years was 22 percent so that "real" income actually decreased.

Then, there's the matter of income inequity. The richest 10 percent of the population had an average annual family income of P505,621 while households belonging to the poorest 10 percent had an average income of only P35,513, which is less than P3,000 a month.

On a national basis, poverty incidence rose from 31.8 percent in 1997 to 34.2 percent in 2000. The government didn't state what household income is defined as the poverty level but looking at the figures makes me suspect that as in previous FIES, the poverty threshold used in their computations may not be too realistic. For example, we find that the poverty incidence in Metro Manila is only 9.7 percent. No, "Edsa III" would not have swelled the way it did if poverty incidence were that low.

The FIES figures do allow us to make some comparisons between 1997 and 2000. Except for the Cordillera Administrative Region, Cagayan Valley, Ilocos and Northern Mindanao, all the other regions showed increases in poverty incidence. The regions with the worst deterioration were Bicol, where poverty incidence rose from 50.1 percent to 56.3 percent, and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), where poverty incidence went from 57.3 percent to 68.8 percent. The latter figure is absolutely depressing: it says that almost 70 percent of households live below the poverty line. And we wonder why there's so much civil strife in the ARMM.

Worsening poverty translates into changes in expenditure patterns. Increases were the most significant for: fuel, light and water (from 5.3 percent to 6.2 percent), transportation and communication (5.6 to 6.8 percent), education (3.7 to 4.2 percent) and rental (14.2 to 15.1 percent). What's so alarming is that for the most part, people have little or no control over the price increases in these expenditure categories. The increase in expenditures for education, for example, certainly wasn't happening because people were shifting to private schools. Rather the increases came with spiraling costs of school supplies and books.

Forced to pay so much more for utilities, rent and transportation, people did exert "choice" by cutting down on all other expenses, including essentials such as food and medical care. Health expenditures, already bad enough at 2.4 percent of total family expenditures in 1997, dropped to 1.9 percent in 2000. These decreases will have long-term effects: an infant sickly and under-nourished in 2000 will enter school in 2007 already disadvantaged in terms of physical and mental development.

The FIES figures offer us lessons, the most important of which is this: poverty alleviation involves more than increasing wages. If basic needs are not met—food, education, housing and transportation—no amount of wage increases will ever be sufficient. The Macapagal administration seems serious about investing in basic services. If they can make sure graft and corruption don't eat up those investments, we may yet see the greatest gains in poverty reduction. The next FIES will be conducted in 2003, just a year before the presidential elections.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

'Creating one million entrepreneurs'

"ETHNIC Chinese control 98 percent of the East Asian economy outside Korea and Japan," said the opening sentence in a write-up promoting the book "Inside Chinese Business" by Chen Ming-Jer which appeared in the Bookmark Section of the July 2001 issue of Asian Business. On the other hand, Dante Y. Go, president of the Chinese Filipino Business Club, was quoted by a local magazine as saying, "There is a misunderstanding that the Chinese-Filipinos control the economy. Most of the Chinese-Filipinos, especially in Binondo, are medium- and small-scale wholesalers and retailers. There is no way we can control the economy."

The two conflicting claims indicate two things: one, the Chinese contribute a lot to the economic welfare of East Asian economies; and two, they are entrepreneurial.

In the Philippines, we notice two kinds of Filipino entrepreneurs. One consists of old families with medium to large businesses; the other runs small- and medium-scale businesses. The first came about from old money and the second arose from necessity. These are the traditional evolution of business enterprises. It was not really, in general, a concern for the economic welfare of the country but a case of tradition or survival.

One gentleman, a former vendor in Divisoria, saw the need for quality and affordable houses for the Filipinos. He went on to build houses for the masses. To further help his country, he became a representative of the Lower House. As a representative, he headed the committee on entrepreneurship and his mission was to "create one million entrepreneurs." This writer, who has had a formal training in entrepreneurship, became an *intrapreneur* and finally an entrepreneur, was impressed by the representative's enthusiasm and started communicating with him and offering his and some of his friends' assistance. Unfortunately, the project seems to have been overtaken by other pressing matters. The representative is now a senator.

We are therefore calling on the quintessential entrepreneur Sen. Manuel Villar to revive his mission of "creating one million entrepreneurs." Entrepreneurs are the boosters of the economy.—**JERRY A. QUIBILAN, associate member, Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals, Quezon City Chapter**

Samar mayor cannot be disqualified

THIS is in response to the news report of correspondent Joey Gabieta, last Aug. 6, 2001.

First, Oras Mayor Teodulo M. Coquilla cannot be disqualified or removed from the list of candidates because the election is over and the Commission on Elections failed to decide within 15 days before the election as the Election Code requires. Besides, Coquilla won and was proclaimed winner by the Municipal Board of Canvassers on May 17, 2001 and he took his oath of office on June 30, 2001.

Second, the date of mayor Coquilla's repatriation is not Nov. 20, 2000, as Gabieta wrongly reported, but Nov. 10, 2000, as his certificate of repatriation shows.

Third, Coquilla's repatriation has retroactive effects on his citizenship and residency, meaning it dates back to actual residency from time of birth in Oras, Eastern Samar.

Lastly, the petition for disqualification filed in the provincial and regional Comelec up to the time it was endorsed to the Comelec in Manila, constitutes a denial of the constitutional guarantee of due process because there was no notice and hearing on the case, or if there was notice, someone misrepresented Coquilla. Franklin Delano Sacmar, his lawyer, has filed with the Comelec in Manila a petition for reconsideration.—**JOSEPH O. CORDERO, secretary, Oras, Eastern Samar**

What is PVAO backlog section for?

I AM the surviving spouse of the late Irebeo E. Daguinotas, a USAFFE guerrilla of World War II who died on June 11, 1998. My claim application was approved on Sept. 15, 1998 under Claim No. OW F09 98-000730.

The original approval of my claim with all the legal supporting documents are in the possession of the Backlog Section of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

What I am now worried about is that I may not be able to claim the benefits left by my late husband, as I am now weak and sickly.

What is this Backlog Claims Section for? During the administrations of Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel V. Ramos there was no such thing. It was only during the term of President Joseph Estrada that this section was created. I hope that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will abolish this section so that all claimants will receive their benefits before they pass away.—**CIRIACA O. DAGUINOTAS, Daanglungsod, Katipunan, Zamboanga del Norte 7109**

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Floods caused by poor garbage collection

NEWS reports relating to urban flooding in Metro Manila invariably lead to bashing of the underprivileged for allegedly throwing their garbage into *esteros*, drainage canals or the streets and sidewalks.

These reports are accompanied by condescending appeals from Metropolitan Manila Development Authority officials and Department of Public Works and Highways engineers to this sector of society to refrain from such "uncivic" practices. But the authorities should consider these facts before they point their fingers at others:

- These unwanted practices are but the consequences of the failure to provide basic services such as garbage collection.
- Even the "enlightened" would resort to such practices if the same services are not delivered in their neighborhoods.
- Until such time as garbage collection and disposal are done efficiently, these appeals will be futile.

There are no cheap, quick and easy solutions to these urban problems. Until a comprehensive, common-sense, affordable, self-sustaining plan is put in place, the situation will get worse before it gets better.

Let us not delude ourselves or let others mislead us.—**ALFREDO V. ASUNCION, 93 Castrillo St. Bario Ugong Norte, Quezon City 1110**

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

HK richest woman battles pa-in-law over estate

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's richest woman is embroiled in a legal battle with her father-in-law over her missing husband's estate—a tale that has all the ingredients of a Hollywood blockbuster: sex, greed, blackmail and murder.

The legal woes of Nina Wang, head of the property giant Chinachem Group, began in April 1990, when her 56-year-old husband Teddy Wang was kidnapped after leaving the exclusive Hong Kong Jockey Club.

Although the family paid $33 million in ransom, Wang was never seen again.

Several members of the gang that abducted the tycoon were captured and jailed. According to the kidnappers, Wang was kept aboard a sampan—a small Chinese boat—and later thrown into the sea, but his body was never found.

Wang was kidnapped once before, in 1983, but was released after a ransom of $11 million was paid.

For years, Wang's father, Wang Din-shin, tried to get the courts to declare his son dead so he could claim the estate. With equal fervor, the tycoon's wife insisted her husband was alive and would return to her.

In the meantime, Nina Wang, a colorful character who wears garish outfits and styles her hair in pigtails, built Chinachem into Hong Kong's largest private property developer, with office towers and apartment complexes throughout the territory.

Nicknamed "Little Sweetie" in Cantonese, the 63-year-old is a flamboyant eccentric in Hong Kong's staid, male-dominated business community.

A High Court judge ruled Wang was legally dead in 1999, paving the way for a probate hearing. Now two wills are at the center of a dispute between Wang's father and wife.

The 90-year-old Wang Din-shin said his son made a will in 1968 that named him the sole beneficiary—and he said this month it happened after Nina Wang allegedly committed adultery.

The elderly man tottered into the High Court and produced photographs showing Nina Wang and her alleged lover. He said they were shot by a private investigator hired by Teddy Wang.

Wang Din-shin testified that his son was so outraged by his wife's behavior that he made a will naming his father beneficiary.

Nina Wang has not responded directly to the adultery claim. The court was told earlier she had admitted to having marital problems in 1968, but had later reconciled with her husband.

However, she disputes her father-in-law's contention about the will. Nina Wang says her husband wrote another will, one month before he was abducted, in which he left all his money and property to her.

The person who signed the 1990 will as a witness died of cancer in 1999.

The case took a bizarre turn last year, before the probate hearing began, when Nina Wang became the victim of a blackmail scam by two of her own lawyers.

Barrister Thomson Mo and solicitor Ailey Yeung were jailed for three years for attempting to extort $1.28 million from their client by pretending that they could provide a forensic report proving the authenticity of her husband's last will.

It was not the first time that someone has tried to bamboozle Nina Wang, who was ranked as the world's 156th richest person last year by Forbes magazine. Her wealth is estimated at $3.7 billion.

A man was sentenced to six months in a mental hospital for demanding $850,000 to mount a rescue mission for her husband.

Now, both sides in the will dispute have lined up handwriting experts to prove or disprove the authenticity of the 1990 will.

While not commenting on her legal battle, Nina Wang appeared unfazed by the unremitting publicity. *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 16, 2001
19th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Jos 3:7-10, 11, 13-17
Gospel: Mt 18:21—19:1

Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, how many times must I forgive the offenses of my brother or sister? Seven times?" Jesus answered, "No, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

This story throws light on the kingdom of heaven. A king decided to settle the accounts of his servants. Among the first was one who owed him ten thousand gold ingots. As the man could not repay the debt, the king commanded that he be sold as a slave with his wife, children and all his goods in payment.

The official threw himself at the feet of the king and said, 'Give me time, and I will pay you back everything.' The king took pity on him and not only set him free but even canceled his debt.

This official then left the king's presence and he met one of his companions who owed him a hundred pieces of silver. He grabbed him by the neck and almost strangled him, shouting, 'Pay me what you owe!' His companion threw himself at his feet and asked him, 'Give me time, and I will pay everything.' The other did not agree, but sent him to prison until he had paid all his debt.

His companions saw what happened. They were indignant and so they went and reported everything to their lord. Then the lord summoned his official and said, 'Wicked servant, I forgave you all that you owed when you begged me to do so. Weren't you bound to have pity on your companion as I had pity on you?' The lord was now angry, so he handed his servant over to be punished, until he had paid his whole debt."

Jesus added, "So will my heavenly Father do with you unless each of you sincerely forgive your brother or sister."

When Jesus had finished this teaching, he left Galilee and arrived at the border of Judea, on the other side of the Jordan River.

Commentary

Matthew wanted to address a serious problem of the early Christian *community, namely, how to deal with sinners. It is a fact of life that people are indebted to one another. The question is how to deal with this. Within this context Matthew points out that this debt is nothing in comparison to the debt everyone has with God. In this matter members of the Church have to follow the example of the compassionate Jesus, who came to look for the lost sheep. A church that is unwilling to forgive sins becomes disobedient to the will of God, and is therefore a caricature of what it is supposed to be. Jesus is strict on this point because the very credibility of the Church is at stake here.*

Father in heaven, you do not want sacrifices but rather compassion. Teach us to accept one another in sincere love, even when it is difficult.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—**Treachery**—There is treachery when the offender commits any of the crimes against persons, employing means, methods, or forms in the execution thereof which tend to directly and especially insure the execution of the crime, without risk to himself from the defense which the offended party might make. The essence of treachery is the sudden and unexpected attack by the aggressor on an unsuspecting victim, depriving the latter of any real chance to defend himself, thereby ensuring its commission without risk to the aggressor, and without the slightest provocation on the part of the victim. The act of accused-appellant in shooting the victim qualities the crime with *alevosia*. The victim had no suspicion that he was to be assaulted, and the sudden, swift attack gave him no opportunity to defend himself. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Melo, Third Division, People v. Lovedorial, G.R. No. 139340, January 17, 2001]

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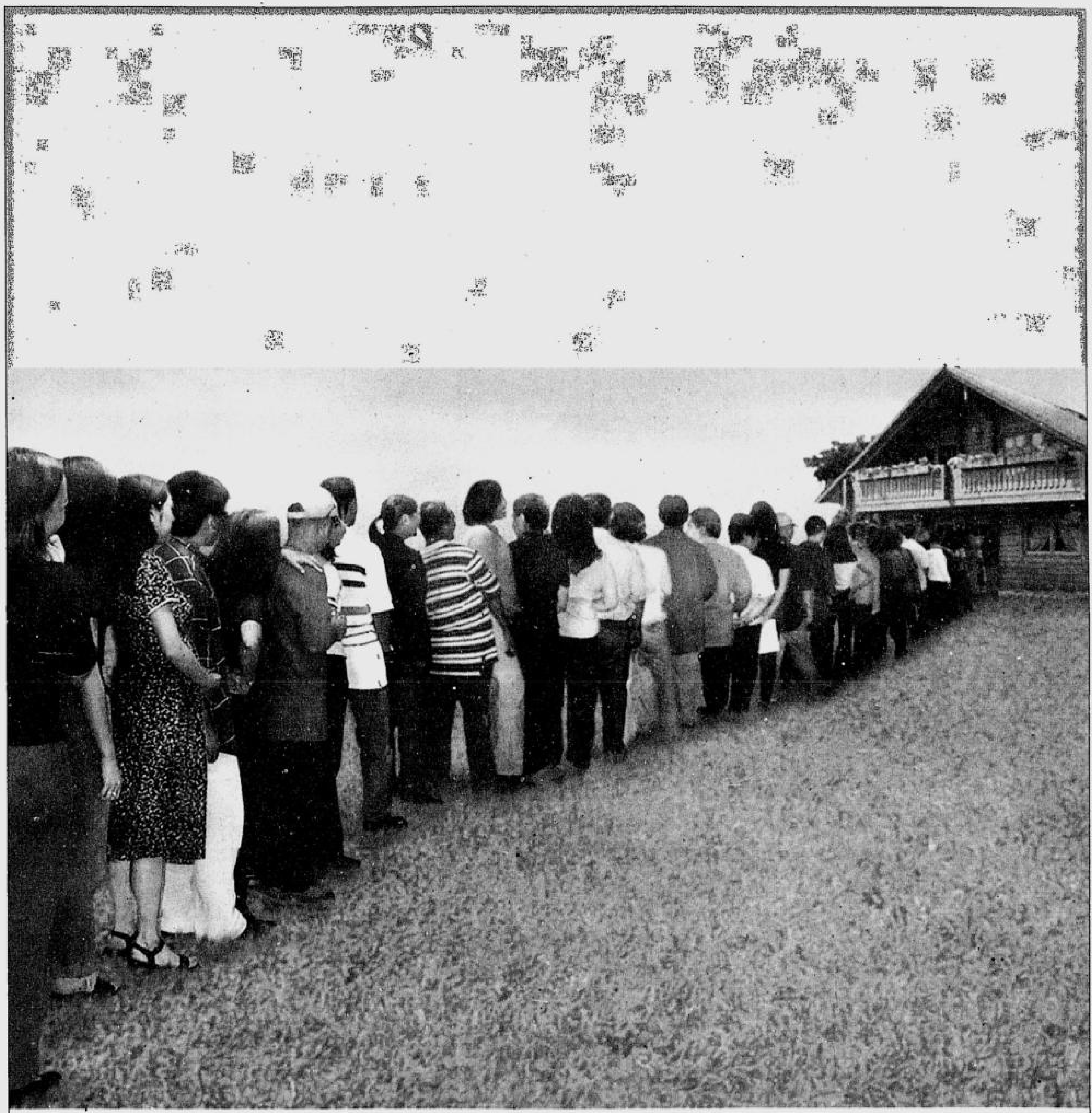

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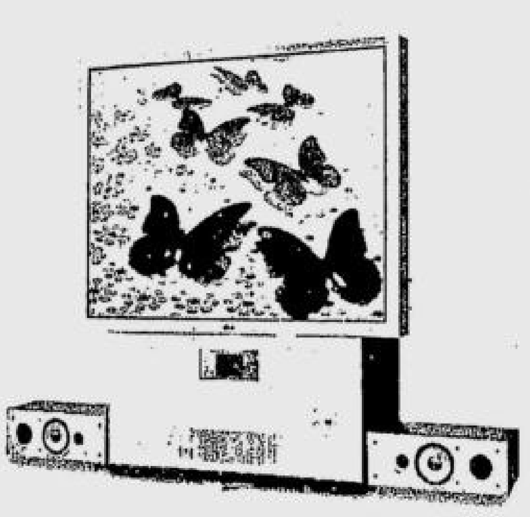

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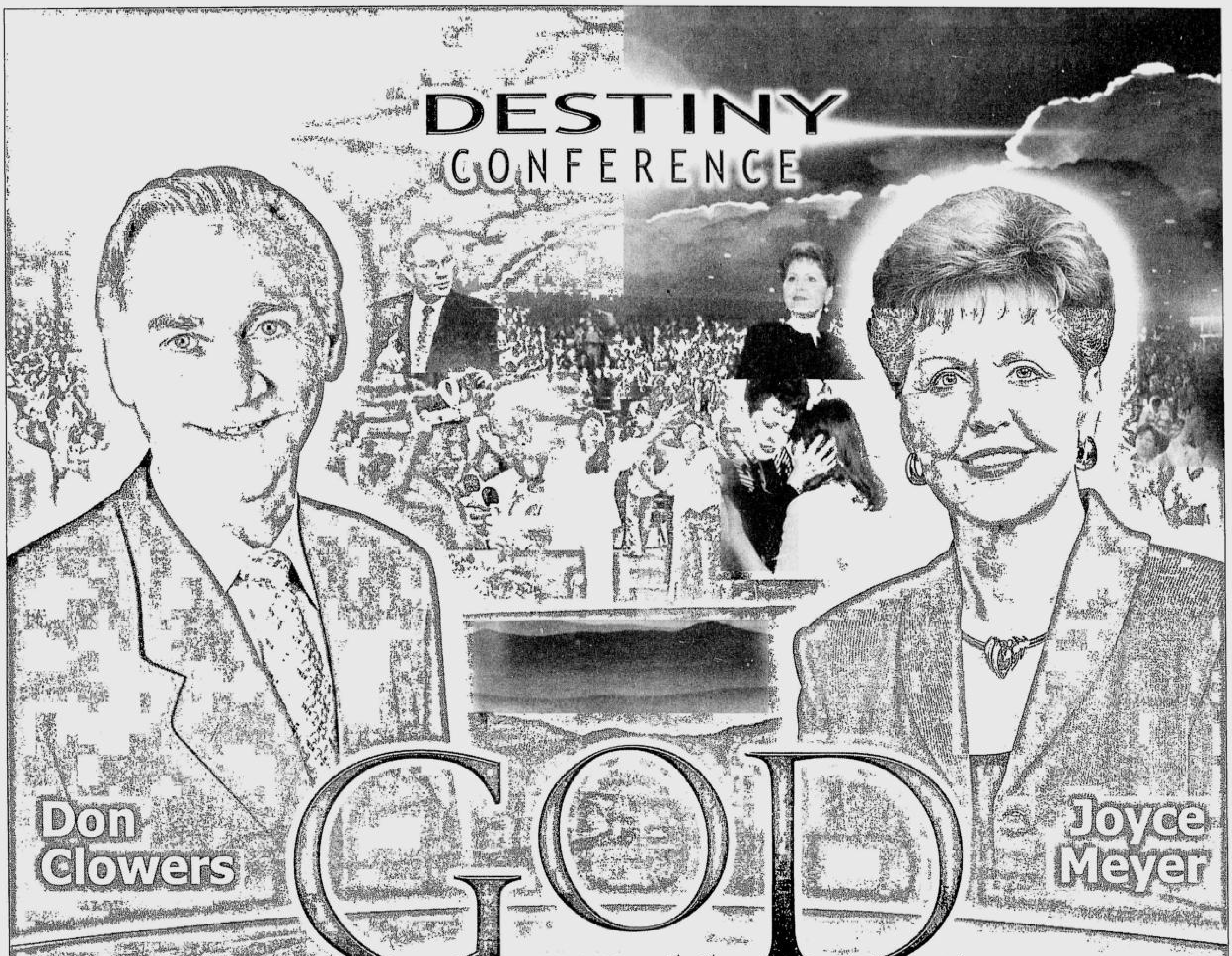

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WORLDBRIEFS

Rights groups assail Megawati

JAKARTA—Human rights activists yesterday criticized President Megawati Sukarnoputri's decision to appoint a career prosecutor as the new attorney general, saying she should have picked someone committed to fight rampant corruption and rights abuses. Megawati rounded off her 33-member Cabinet late Tuesday, when she named Muhamad Abdurrachman, a senior official in the attorney general's office, to fill the post. The new attorney general is expected to come under strong pressure from business magnates, Army generals and cronies of former dictator Suharto, to drop a host of high-profile corruption and human rights investigations launched during the previous administration of President Abdurrahman Wahid. *AP*

Sokor civilians visit N. Korea

SEOUL—A group of 311 South Korean religious, labor and civic leaders yesterday left for North Korea to take part in joint Liberation Day celebrations with their Northern counterparts. A chartered Asiana Airlines plane carrying the Southern delegates and 26 journalists departed Incheon International Airport for a one-hour flight to the North's capital, Pyongyang. The South Koreans planned to return home Tuesday after a one-week stay. Their program includes joint seminars, cultural events and hikes to scenic points. Aug. 15 is the Korean Liberation Day from 35 years of Japanese colonial rule in 1945. It is a major holiday in both the North and South. The Seoul government initially had banned the trip but later changed its position after North Korean hosts eased their conditions regarding the venue of the proposed joint celebrations. North Koreans had insisted that the joint celebrations be held in front of a newly built monument in Pyongyang that Seoul officials believe symbolizes the communist country's political cause. *AP*

Politicians flock to war shrine

TOKYO—Defying protests in Asia, conservative Japanese politicians—including five Cabinet ministers—flocked to a shrine for the war dead yesterday to mark the 56th anniversary of the country's surrender in World War II. The Yasukuni shrine visits, which are stridently opposed by China and South Korea, came as Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi—who went to the shrine on Monday—and Emperor Akihito expressed regrets for the war in a separate ceremony in central Tokyo. "Our country has caused many countries, especially our Asian neighbors, significant damage and pain," Koizumi said in a speech beginning the ceremony, adding that Japan can make amends by fostering peace and prosperity in the region. Wednesday's ceremony at a concert hall in central Tokyo was a secular ceremony that honored both military and civilian dead. Akihito and Empress Michiko bowed before a huge bed of chrysanthemums while a tone rang marking the moment on Aug. 15, 1945, when Japan surrendered. That ceremony, however, was overshadowed by the international stir over Koizumi's Yasukuni visit and increasing tensions between Tokyo and China and South Korea over the legacy of the war. *AP*

Bomb kills 3 in New Delhi train

NEW DELHI—A bomb ripped through a passenger train near New Delhi on Tuesday, killing at least three people and injuring 19 others, even as officials tightened security around the capital ahead of India's Independence Day celebrations. The blast, caused by a crude bomb that officials believe may have been planted by separatist militants who have threatened to disrupt the national holiday, went off as the train was passing through Muradnagar railroad station, 35 km north of New Delhi, a police official said on condition of anonymity. The condition of two of the injured passengers was described as "serious" by doctors at the nearby Ghaziabad hospital. The train, from the Hindu holy city of Hardwar, 200 km north of New Delhi, was just an hour away from the capital when the bomb exploded at 3:40 p.m. *AP*

Genoa protesters humiliated, threatened inside garrison

ROME—American Sherman Sparks sat naked in a prison infirmary, an ice pack on his injured groin, for a half-hour before a guard gave him a blanket to cover himself.

Stefania Galante was forced to stand spread-eagled against the cell wall for two hours in the middle of the night as baton-wielding guards insulted her and 30 other Genoa protesters.

"They were threatening girls who didn't have their legs open, telling them they would be raped with the clubs," Galante said. "It was surreal. I couldn't believe it was happening."

It had been just a few hours since riot police smashed through the doors and windows of school housing demonstrators at the Group of Eight summit, hunting for weapons and troublemakers.

While much attention has focused on the July 22 midnight raid and the 60 people injured, prosecutors this week opened an investigation into what occurred soon afterward at the Bolzaneto police garrison.

Some of the 90 protesters detained that night say they were physically and mentally abused at Bolzaneto, beaten and forced to strip for medical exams and subjected to sexually graphic insults.

They say they were deprived of sleep, food, water and medical care. When they were allowed to use the toilet, police would watch.

Foreign detainees say it took days to see their lawyers and consular officials and that they were forced to sign Italian documents they didn't understand. Once released, they were dropped at a small airport without money, plane tickets or in some cases passports; told they had been deported but unable to leave.

The treatment of foreign demonstrators has been the most problematic issue for Premier Silvio Berlusconi since the summit ended. While the outcry hasn't threatened his ability to govern, it has further tarnished an image already clouded by questions about the media baron's alleged conflicts of interest. And it has riled relations with the mostly leftist governments of the European Union.

European countries have lodged formal protests about how their citizens were treated. The United States has expressed concern. Amnesty International has called for an independent inquiry, and lawyers are threatening action against individual officers.

"We asked to call lawyers. We asked to call the Embassy. They wouldn't let us," said Tess, a German protester who was detained during the raid on the school and questioned at the police barracks. She asked that her last name not be used.

Sparks, a recent college graduate from Salem, Oregon, filed an 11-page affidavit when he was released. In it, he described how he was beaten in the abdomen and groin during the raid, hospitalized, imprisoned and then taken back to the hospital after the injury worsened in the cold prison cell.

Much of his affidavit focuses on his first stay at the hospital, where he said he was surrounded by dozens of police who guarded him and others through the night, insisting on accompanying them to the bathroom and to see specialists.

Sparks said he felt the officers were "trying to make me think that as soon as the hospital released me, the brutality would begin again."

A top regional health official has ordered an investigation into possible "improper behavior" by doctors, the Genoa daily Il Secolo XIX reported Tuesday. The investigation would determine whether doctors' behavior "allowed police forces to enter the emergency rooms, identify the injured and force the transfer of people who were hospitalized."

Like many others, Sparks was moved around constantly during his detention and spent just a full night at Bolzaneto.

Jose Luis Sicilia, from the northern Spanish city of Zaragoza, said he was forced to undress and do push-ups when he arrived at Bolzaneto even though he had just been hospitalized for two broken ribs and a head wound. *AP*

Israel masses troops at West Bank village

BEIT JALLA, West Bank—Israeli troops and tanks yesterday took positions near the West Bank village of Beit Jalla, feigning an invasion, after a heavy exchange of fire between gunmen in the village and soldiers protecting a nearby Jewish neighborhood.

The movement came just a day after Israeli tanks and bulldozers rumbled into the West Bank town of Jenin and destroyed a police building, the first incursion into a Palestinian town since Israel relinquished civilian control over Palestinian population centers in 1995, under interim peace accords.

The deployment near Beit Jalla, Bethlehem and Beit Sahour, all near Jerusalem, was within Israeli-controlled territory, the military spokesperson said. Palestinian witnesses said soldiers fired flares over Beit Jalla, convincing villagers than an invasion was imminent.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon warned that if violence continues—a reference to suicide bombings and gunfire attacks—"The Palestinians will lose additional assets, and they have something to lose."

Palestinians charged that Israel was escalating a bloody conflict that has dragged on for more than 10 months. The United States criticized the Israeli move into Jenin, calling it provocative. *AP*

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Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St.,Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Rains	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Baguio	Rains	Hi 22° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 33° Lo 21°
Laoag	Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Rains	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Tagaytay	Rains	Hi 28° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 31° Lo 26°
Calapan	Rains	Hi 34° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Roxas	Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/16/01

ROUNDUP

9 inmates bolt jail

COTABATO CITY—Nine inmates escaped from a police station jail here on Wednesday. Chief Insp. Ramonito Pachoco, newly designated police station commander, said one of the nine escapees was arrested hours later. Pachoco said the inmates escaped by sawing off the cell's window grills. Most of the escapees are facing charges such as snatching, stabbing and petty crimes. Detainee Rustom Datumanong, who was recaptured by policemen Wednesday, said it took them two days to slowly cut off the iron grills.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Town mayor suspended

ILAGAN, Isabela—Local Governments Secretary Jose Lina Jr. has suspended Angadanan Mayor Felicitas Ong for 90 days due to her pending criminal case for alleged graft and corruption. In his memorandum, Lina ordered Ong to "cease and desist" from performing her tasks as mayor due to her criminal case. Aside from Ong, Lina also suspended municipal treasurer Erlinda Fanio, municipal engineer Florante Siquian and municipal planning and development officer Isagani Agustin. Ong's criminal case stemmed from an overpriced dump truck, which the local government bought for P750,000. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Garbage thrower jailed

DAGUPAN CITY—For throwing 20 bags of garbage into the Pantal River on Monday, a 72-year-old man here was jailed for a few hours and was lectured on waste management. Mayor Benjamin Lim said his office received a call from a concerned citizen that Mauricio Martin threw the garbage into the river. Lim said Martin rented a boat and went to the middle of the river to throw the garbage. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Rape-killing shocks Capiz

PRESIDENT ROXAS, Capiz—A fishpond caretaker described by police as a drunkard raped and then chopped off the ears of his 4-year-old stepdaughter before stabbing her to death Monday night.

Police here described the crime as a very unusual case of violence in Capiz in recent times.

The suspect, identified as Diony Bangud, 29, was charged with rape and homicide before the Municipal Circuit Trial Court of President Roxas-Pilar on Tuesday.

The victim's naked body, which also bore bruises and swelling, was found near a creek in Barangay Viscaya here Tuesday morning by residents of the area. The girl had a stab wound in the chest, police said.

Bangud, now detained in the town police station, denied he raped and killed the girl, saying he "loved (his stepdaughter) so much."

He also told police that he was on duty as a fishpond caretaker at the time of the crime. Instead, he pointed an accusing finger at a "fellow fishpond caretaker" as the one who could have possibly raped and killed the girl.

The victim's mother vowed to pursue charges against her common-law-husband. Although she was out when the alleged crime happened, she was convinced that her husband was the one who killed her daughter.

She also said that contrary to Bangud's claim, she said her lover hated her daughter "so much."

Chopper on test flight crashes

DAVAO CITY—A Philippine Air Force helicopter crashed near Runway 5 of the Davao International Airport here shortly after a test flight Tuesday morning.

The pilots, Capt. Matthew Ramillano and 1Lt. Francis Victor Imperial, both graduates of the PAF Flying School in Lipa City, Batangas, were unhurt.

Also on board the ill-fated aircraft were T/Sgt. Jose Santos, quality control inspector; S/Sgt. Russel Filoteo, Vibrex specialist; S/Sgt. Rommel Villareal, crew chief and helicopter mechanic Sgt. Sofronio Rollon.

Santos suffered minor bruises.

Col. Antonio Bautista, commander of the Tactical Operation Group, Southern Command, said the helicopter was flying at an altitude of 1,000 feet on its final phase of the test flight when its rotor blade malfunctioned causing it to descend rapidly.

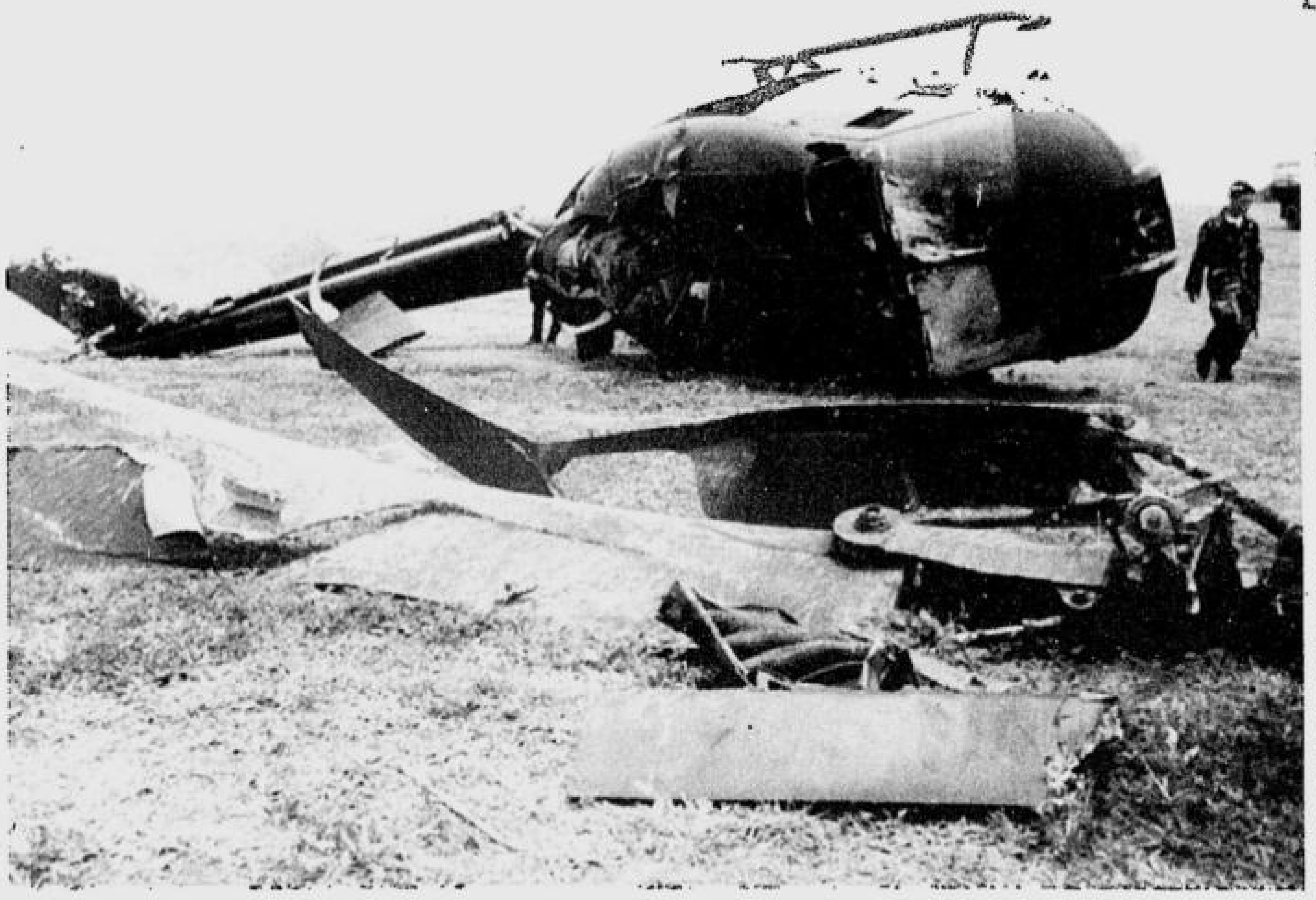
Last year, Imperial and another pilot, 2Lt. Arnold Makalintal, were forced to make an emergency landing shortly after taking off from the Army's 1st Infantry Division camp in Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur.

The helicopter was a total wreck while Imperial and Makalintal suffered minor injuries.

On Monday, an MG-520 attack helicopter had "engine trouble" while it was on its way back to Iloilo Monday afternoon after a mission on Panay Island.

1Lt. Tirso Kong and 2Lt. Wilvin Parcon piloted the helicopter.

"There were no injuries to the pilots and (a) crew (member)," according to Col. Jose Angel Honrado, acting information officer of the PAF headquarters. *Joselle Badilla with a report from Dennis Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



SOLDIERS inspect the wreck of the ill-fated helicopter that crashed on a test flight Tuesday. RYAN LIM

Flood terror won't cease; 3 more dead

DUMAGUETE CITY—Five persons, including an 11-year-old girl, drowned in Negros Oriental and Zamboanga City at the height of flash floods brought by heavy rains since Sunday.

Police identified two of the victims as Cornelio Obañana, 72, of Poblacion, Sta. Catalina and Roselyn Formente, 11, of Jumalon, Siaton, Negros Oriental.

Residents in the coastal village of Sta. Catalina and Siaton found their bodies Monday.

Police in Sta. Catalina, about 85 kilometers south of here, quoted witnesses as saying that Obañana was swept away by the strong water current when he crossed the Sicopong River in Sta. Catalina Monday.

The town's police also reported that residents on the shores of Barangay Nagbagang recovered Tuesday another body of a man who also drowned.

The victim was about 60 years old. His identity was not immediately known but witnesses were quoted as saying that he was crossing the Nagbagang River when strong currents swept him away.

On Tuesday, a certain SP04 Macua informed radio station dyWC of the Radyo Bandilyo network that a body was found on the shore of Barangay Tambacan 4 in Tanjay City, about 34 kilometers north of here.

Macua described the victim to be male, about 60 years old and also most likely a victim of flash floods.

In a barangay in Zamboanga City, a 56-year-old farmer drowned while trying to save his raft as it was being swept away by waters.

Authorities identified the victim as Braulio Orpio, a resident of Purok Cuatro in Barangay Labuan, Zamboanga City.

The victim's brother, Ronald, said Braulio wandered off to the sea to retrieve a wooden raft but strong waves threw the victim into the water.

The victim's body was found several hours later.

In Cotabato City, government relief agencies and military personnel intensified the search for 11 persons who were reported missing following a flash flood that hit five Maguindanao towns.

The bodies of seven persons, mostly children and women aged 5 to 30, were fished out Tuesday from the Liguasan Marsh, Army Maj. Julieto Ando said.

Army troopers are combing Maguindanao's Liguasan Marsh for victims who may have been swept away by rampaging waters Sunday.

The floods displaced at least 100,000 persons in the towns of Shariff Aguak, Mamasapano, Ampatuan, Sultan sa Barongis and Talayan.

Hadji Mokiin Salic Malna, social welfare secretary of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said relief operations have been ongoing since Sunday, a holiday because of the plebiscite.

"Disaster workers recognize no holidays," Malna told the INQUIRER.

"We have to extend assistance even with our meager resources," she said.

"We appeal for more from kind-hearted individuals and organizations because this calamity is far from over due to continuous rains," said Bai Sambay Suwaib, DSWD-ARMM administrative officer.

Social workers distributed rice, noodles and sardines to families who are housed in barangay centers, town halls and public schools that were spared by floodwaters.

The flood also destroyed portions of the Kabulnan irrigation dam in Shariff Aguak, Ando said.

Army engineers are working with the public works and highways office to build a bailey bridge over the Labo-Labo River where the original bridge's 50-meter span collapsed Sunday.

Dr. Tahir Sulaik, Maguindanao health chief, expressed fears of an outbreak of diarrhea in various evacuation centers in Ampatuan and Shariff Aguak.

In Zamboanga City, Francisco Barredo, city social welfare and development officer, told the INQUIRER that at least 300 families were forced to temporarily take shelter at the San Jose Gusu Elementary School.

A flash flood alert was issued after waters passed through an impounding dam of the Zamboanga City Water District.

Most of the houses that lie just meters away from the river banks were submerged in three to five feet deep of murky waters.

A Philippine Navy rubber boat was used to evacuate stranded residents of Barangay San Jose Gusu.

Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat immediately instructed the City Social Welfare Office to provide immediate relief assistance to residents of the city.

Hundreds of families were also evacuated from flooded villages of the city—Barangays Vitali, Curuan, Putik, Guiwan, Tumaga and Tugbungan.

The water level in the Zamboanga City Water District's dam in Barangay Pasonanca rose to 75.9 meters from its normal level of 74.3 meters, "a critical level," said authorities.

Because of the continuous rains, water district authorities issued an alert to residents along riverbanks to watch out for floods. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau and Edwin Fernandez, Jonathan Ma and Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

New strain of dengue found as 1 more dies

DENGUE fever continues its reign of terror in different parts of the country as a new strain of the disease was found.

The disease's latest victim was a child in Laguna who died and dozens of people in Aklan province who were brought to hospitals because of dengue.

In Laguna, health officials yesterday warned that dengue could further spread after a dengue victim died and 257 new dengue cases were reported in the province.

Dr. Gil de la Cruz, malaria-dengue coordinator in Laguna, told the INQUIRER that the recent epidemic, which started in January this year, has become worse than last year's.

De la Cruz said the rapid increase in the number of victims could be due to the failure of residents to take precautionary measures against the disease.

De la Cruz said residents also failed to eradicate the sources of dengue carrying mosquitoes.

Information lack

She said the lack of information and the unsanitary habits of the people have contributed to the rapid spread of the disease.

The Dengue-carrying *aedes aegypti* and *aedes albopictus* mosquitoes breed in clean water normally found in flower vases, toilet bowls, discarded tires and moist places, she said.

These carriers could be distinguished from other common house mosquitoes by their irregular *batik*-like spots.

The symptoms accompanying advanced stages of dengue infection are high fever, bleeding, and liver inflammation.

These mosquitoes, according to De La Cruz, usually bite during the day, either at dawn or sunset.

Dengue has killed at least 17 people in Batangas and afflicted 217 others since its outbreak in January this year.

State of calamity

The provincial government has proposed the placing of the whole province in a state of calamity in order to speed up the delivery of funds for the eradication of mosquito breeding places and the purchase of more medicines.

Aside from urging people to dispose of water in any container and for people to clean their surroundings, she said that the national government should conduct a massive information campaign to enlighten people of the preventive measures against dengue mosquitoes.

In Kalibo, Aklan health authorities reported that a total of 60 patients have been afflicted with dengue fever for the past two months.

But Aklan provincial health officer Landelino Meñez downplayed the report, saying the situation in Aklan is far from alarming.

Meñez said it was very difficult for health authorities in Aklan to keep tabs of the number of dengue cases because patients who were suffering advance stages of the disease were brought directly to Iloilo hospitals.

Symptoms

Patients who are confined in Aklan hospitals can only be considered suffering from dengue if they show symptoms of stage 2 of the disease, Meñez said.

He also denied a report that a patient had died from dengue. Meñez said the doctors of the patient were not sure if the cause of death was really dengue.

Meñez, however, warned radio listeners that the Department of Health had discovered a new strain of the dengue virus. This one, he said, is caused not by day-biting mosquitoes but by mosquitoes that bite at night, usually from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

It was earlier established that the dengue virus is brought by the *aedes aegypti* or *aedes polvectus* mosquito, which usually bite from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m.

Provincial health authorities reiterated their warning against dengue-causing mosquitoes by calling on residents to clean their surroundings and get rid of water that could become breeding places of mosquitoes.

They said cleaning a community's surroundings and making sure there are no breeding places for mosquitoes is one way of preventing the spread of dengue. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Odon Bandiola, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Delays snag Pinatubo canal project

BOTOLAN, Zambales—Delays have snagged the Pinatubo canal project, this town's main defense against lahar rampages and floods expected from the breakout or overflow of water from the volcano's crater-lake this rainy season.

The engineering intervention did not start on Monday, as planned, even as local officials, government engineers and volcanologists recognized the certainty of threats.

They admitted racing against time and vowed vigilance and swiftness in reducing the risks to some 40,000 residents here.

Poor coordination, unavailability of funds and unfinished arrangements hampered the start of government's lifesaving effort.

No helicopter was available to transport the first 20 Aeta workers who will build the canal at the crater's low Maraunot notch.

The P2.3-million budget for the canal is still not available and the municipal government is expected first to spend for the project, said Mayor Roger Yap.

Public Works Assistant Secretary Florante Soriquez said the National Disaster Coordinating Council was financing the project.

A memorandum of agreement has yet to be inked among the municipal and provincial governments, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, and the national and regional disaster coordinating councils.

The agreement, sought by the provincial board on Monday, seeks to identify the responsibilities of each involved agency, according to Gov. Vicente Magsaysay.

Aeta laborers want to perform first a peace offering ritual that will assure them safety from what they deem as a dangerous task.

They also want assurance of food provisions and a daily wage of P250 from the initial offer of P180.

They and DPWH engineers Eduardo Bautista and Adriano Doble spent the entire Monday waiting for a helicopter to take them to the crater. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Apayao rape case shows 'Red Diaries' truthful

BAGUIO CITY—The police director of the Cordillera said he would allow the showing of the controversial movie "Red Diaries" which portrays policemen as wife-beaters and rapists.

"I wouldn't mind the showing of the movie. We don't know, maybe there indeed are policemen who are like that," said Chief Supt. Virtus Gil.

In the third part of the "Red Diaries" trilogy, actor Carlos Morales plays a policeman who beats up his wife played by Assunta de Rossi and even calls on his fellow policemen to rape her later.

Gil does not need to look far for such kinds of policemen.

In Flora, Apayao, two policemen were charged with allegedly helping their mayor rape an 18-year-old girl in November last year.

Flora Mayor Richard de San Jose, 38, is facing rape charges for the Nov. 23 incident and another molestation charge filed by a 17-year-old girl.

Two Flora policemen, Gilberto Estomo and Juanito Peralta, were also charged together with De San Jose's driver Dennis Lojero, and aide Romulo Malda Jr., and Federico Feliciano, barangay captain of Poblacion East.

De San Jose, a second term mayor, said the charges against him were baseless and were being blown out of proportion by his opponents.

Francisco Gamatero, Department of Interior and Local Government director in Apayao, said the two victims complained with the National Bureau of Investigation in Manila allegedly through the intercession of two mayoral candidates whom De San Jose defeated in the last elections.

The mayor said the girl whom he allegedly molested was his fiancée.

Just before the May 14 elections, one of the mayor's bodyguards invited the girl to De San Jose's farm in Flora for a picnic and a drinking spree, Gamatero said in a report.

The girl accepted the invitation and joined De San Jose's party till the wee hours of the morning, Gamatero said.

De San Jose, however, has no report on the rape case filed against him by another girl. But he admitted that the Department of Justice and NBI are working on his case.

On the rape case, NBI reports showed that the complainant was walking home when De San Jose's vehicle blocked her path. Estomo and Peralta invited the girl to ride with them but when she got inside the vehicle, Peralta allegedly gagged her with a drug-laced handkerchief.

She regained consciousness to find De San Jose ready to rape her, reports said. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

TV network sacks 11 workers

Move came after employees sought regularization

BALANCING ACT MELVIN GASCON

This balancing act is part of routine for this newspaper vendor in Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. Perhaps the more difficult balancing act he has to perform daily, however, is how to make his earnings out of selling newspapers match his and his family's needs.

DAVAO CITY—Eleven workers of one of the country's largest broadcasting networks received their walking papers last week after they filed charges of violation of labor laws against the network's management.

But Maricon Alojado, ABS-CBN Davao manager, told the INQUIRER that the workers' contracts were not renewed because they were demanding that they be made regular employees, which the network said it could not afford at this time.

The sacked program-talents were senior radio reporter Marcelino "Dodong" Gabito, TV program executive producer-reporter Darius Relatado, radio program host-reporter Elvie Rosello, reporters Darmo Castillo, Vincent Pomoy, Julito Barril and Jun Balbuena, production assistant Giza Pinig and cameramen-technicians Percy Penoliar, Edgar Balanguan and Mateo Barbarona.

Except for Gabito, Barril, Balanguan, Barbarona and Castillo, whose termination papers will take effect Aug. 22, the notices of "non-renewal" of contracts of the other workers were dated July 31.

"We expected . . . a renewal of our contract yesterday, but we received termination papers (instead)," said one of the fired workers.

But the other terminated workers said they were already expecting the management's action after they filed a case before the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) last month.

Alojado said the ABS-CBN management tried to talk with the sacked workers to discuss their desire to become regular employees, which the network could not grant.

Alojado said ABS-CBN was opting to extend their contracts as talents but the workers did not sign the new set of contracts.

She said the renewal of contracts was given as an option to the talents even before they filed the case on July 19.

"Their demands cannot be met immediately at this time due to economic constraints but the management plans to institute regularization. We have (a) regularization program annually," Alojado said.

Alojado also said the program talents are paid based on the programs they work in.

"Program talents can also work for other programs," she said.

In the charge they filed against the network, the terminated workers claimed that they have been working with ABS-CBN for years, but they remained contractual talents.

Some of them even spent more than five years with the company.

"It is just ironic that some new workers in the network become regular ahead of us despite our being more qualified," they claimed.

Under the law, a worker is deemed regular after six months of continuous employment in a firm unless he is terminated for a cause prior to the six-month period. *Anthony Allada and Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DA cries foul over firm's genetic corn test

NAGA CITY—The controversial trial planting of Bt corn, a genetically modified corn variety resistant to corn borers, was pushed by Monsanto Philippines in a village in Tigaon, Camarines Sur, without prior approval from the Department of Agriculture and the town's officials.

Emily Bordado, DA Bicol communications unit chief, said her office confirmed last week that the Bt corn trial planting in Barangay Palayon, Tigaon, was done on July 26 without DA consent.

The DA regional office here earlier said the trial planting was postponed indefinitely because of opposition from farmers' groups in Bicol.

Bordado said Monsanto saw Bicol as another site for trial planting because corn farms in the region are small compared with those in other areas in the Philippines.

But a group of militant farmers reported last week that the Bt corn trial planting pushed through on a five-hectare farm in Barangay Palayon.

Responding to the report, the DA regional office verified it and found that Monsanto had contacted the DA quarantine office in Legazpi City and then pushed through with the trial planting.

Willy Marbella, Kilusan ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas-Bicol chair, said Monsanto's maneuver exposed the tactics that the giant agrochemical company employs to proceed with the multi-location field trial of Bt corn.

Marbella said this recent development in the field trial of Bt corn duplicated the experience of the barangay council of Lagao in General Santos City in 1999 when the National Committee on Bio-Safety of the Philippines approved the application by Cargill-Agroseeds to test Bt corn.

He said the barangay council of Lagao passed a resolution that expressed grave concern over the field testing of Bt corn.

Marbella said Cargill-Agroseeds pushed through with the tests on Dec. 15, 1999 inside Barangay Lagao despite a rejection of the tests by the barangay council.

Elmo Bombasi, Tigaon town mayor, said the local government has not approved any application from Monsanto Philippines for the trial planting of Bt corn.

Bombasi said he was aware that Monsanto had proposed a demonstration in his town but he said he still had to wait for the study conducted by the local agriculture office.

He said it was only yesterday that he was informed of the existence of the trial planting in his town.

Bombasi said if he confirms that Monsanto pushed through with the trial planting of Bt corn in his town, he would order the plants' destruction.

Marbella expressed alarm that the trial planting could contaminate other corn species and wild life that might cause irreversible damage to the environment.

He claimed that an independent research conducted for three years in Jena University in Germany had shown that genetically modified crops contaminated the genes of bacteria inside the hives of bees.

Marbella said pollen from the genetically modified crops fed to young bees changed the genetic composition of bacteria inside the hives. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

6 cops sacked, 39 others suspended

PALO, LEYTE—Six police officers were dismissed and thirty-nine others were suspended for grave misconduct from January to Aug. 11 this year, police records show.

Supt. Jody Sydiongco, chief of the community relations division of the Philippine National Police's regional office in Eastern Visayas, said all of the dismissed policemen were fired from the PNP in June and July.

He identified the dismissed policemen as PO1 Romeo Serrona and PO1 Marlon Abaigar, of the Western Samar police office; PO1 Arnel Delmoro, of the Northern Samar provincial office; SPO1 Arnulfo Benusa of the Leyte provincial police office; and SPO1 Ruben Andrade and PO2 Herlito Cartel, of the regional police office.

Serrona, Abaigar and Delmoro were dismissed in June while Benusa, Andrade and Cartel were dismissed last month.

Cartel was dismissed because of illegal drug use. The others were removed from the police service due to excessive Absences Without Leave (Awol).

The 39 suspended policemen will not receive their salaries and allowances while serving their suspension orders, the PNP said.

Most of the policemen were penalized for going on Awol and were suspended for a month, the PNP said. *Cynthia Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Kim Wong flies to Hong Kong

(From page A1)
owns a number of restaurants in Manila.

Corpus withheld comment on Wong's departure and instead focused on efforts to pin down Lacson for alleged money laundering in the United States.

Ex-Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, who is now serving as Wong's lawyer, said he did not tell his client to leave.

"When he called me, he was already abroad," Chavez told the INQUIRER.

Chavez said that Wong phoned him yesterday morning to engage his legal services, and that he agreed.

He challenged Corpus to file charges against Wong, saying his client was not a drug lord and was a legitimate businessman.

"I will never handle a case for a drug lord," he said.

Chavez also dared Corpus to indicate the docket number of the cases as well as the names of the judges and justices who were supposedly influenced by Wong to issue temporary restraining orders in favor of Lacson.

He said Corpus' reckless statement was a general indictment of the judiciary and the criminal justice system.

"I hope Corpus realizes this," he said.

Chavez, who claimed to have known Wong for a long time, also said Corpus got the wrong man.

No address

Vallada said Wong did not specify in his departure card where he would be staying in Hong Kong. In the space provided for the departing passenger's address abroad, he merely wrote the word "hotel."

He listed his local address as 95 Economia St., Makati.

"If he's really the Kim Wong who is engaged in drug trafficking, that we have to research on and check with the Isafp," Vallada said in an interview.

Vallada also said Wong could be barred from reentering Manila.

"If he's declared an undesirable alien, he could be excluded upon his return. Or if there's a case against him, he could be held for further investigation," Vallada said.

Corpus had earlier said that Lacson and Wong had shipped in P250 billion in illegal drugs since they went into the trade.

Both men have denied Corpus' allegations.

Spying

At the Senate, fears were raised yesterday that the Isafp under Corpus could be spying on senators.

As a result, Sen. John Osmeña, head of the committee on finance, said the chamber would slash the P1-billion intelligence fund of the Isafp, PNP and other government agencies.

Sen. Edgardo Angara has moved to have Corpus called to the Senate's "question hour."

"Instead of a committee of the Senate doing the investigation, the whole Senate will call him to a question hour so that every one of us will be involved in the examination," Angara said as he interpellated Sen. Robert Barbers.

"I think (Corpus) is a security risk," Angara told the INQUIRER in an earlier interview.

Barbers took the floor yesterday to deny that his deputy chief of staff, Stephen Villaflor, was involved in any crime.

Corpus presented to the media on Monday a color photo purportedly of Wong. But the man in the photo turned out to be Villaflor.

The Isafp chief has since publicly apologized for what he described as "an honest mistake."

Barbers cited a radio interview wherein Corpus supposedly admitted that Villaflor had been under surveillance.

The senator raised the possibility that Corpus and his men could be spying on all the senators and their staff, and asked that Corpus be made to answer for this during the planned investigation of Lacson by the Senate blue ribbon committee.

"If my apprehension is true, he is placing the senators under surveillance and for all we know, other officials in the government might also be under surveillance," said Barbers, a member of the Lakas-NUCD.

He described Villaflor as a "religious man" and "a very upright person whose integrity is beyond reproach."

For his part, Villaflor complained that the photo mix-up had "unduly alarmed" his family.

"If my picture is with them, it is possible that they're also spying on my boss (Barbers)," he said.

Barbers said the committees on public order and on national security and defense would call Corpus, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and ex-agent Angelo "Ador" Mawanay for a hearing on the matter on Friday.

For his part, Sen. Aguilino Pimentel Jr. said he was to file a resolution yesterday inviting Reyes and Corpus to attend the Senate's "committee of the whole" at 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

'Demolition job'

Osmeña said the administration party could be behind the "demolition job" on Lacson and the supposed spying on the senators.

"We will have to work on the intelligence fund. The political operators of Lakas-NUCD under (executive director) Joey Rufino could be using the Isafp for partisan politics. Are the funds of the Isafp being used in the interest of political parties?" he said.

Osmeña, who used to be affiliated with the opposition party, said the Isafp's investigation of Lacson was clearly a "demolition job" and had the nature of a "political" activity.

He said that instead of filing charges against Lacson, Corpus had subjected the senator to a "trial by publicity."

But lest he be accused of being "vindictive," Osmeña said, "there will be a general reduction of the intelligence expenses of all agencies" in the government because of its financial instability.

Osmeña expressed agreement with the idea that the surveillance of Villaflor showed that the senators were all under watch as well.

"It is not the business of the Isafp to be snooping around the Senate. If (Corpus) is doing so, then he has another agenda," the senator said.

He said he would subpoena Corpus and ask him to bring all the pictures they had taken of the senators and their staff.

Pity

Lacson softened his attacks on Corpus in view of the latter's admission of his mistake in presenting the wrong photo of Wong.

Asked to comment on the issue of the photo, Lacson initially declined but later said: "When a man is down, you should not kick him. I don't want the same thing happening to me. Honestly, I pity him because he, too, is a victim. He was fed information that turned out to be false."

Asked whether he believed that it was an honest mistake on Corpus' part, Lacson said he was willing to give the Isafp chief "the benefit of the doubt." ***With reports from Donna S. Cueto and Gerald G. Lacuarta***

FBI probe found 4 active Lacson accounts

(From page A1)
Corpus of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) as belonging to Lacson and containing laundered drug money.

But a joint military and police intelligence team that investigated the former Philippine National Police chief's alleged multi-million dollar accounts in California claims to hold a different set of intelligence documents from the US Customs Service, which assisted in its probe.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza, one of the six members of the team, said the FBI investigation was "not conclusive because it was not as exhaustive as the probe made and still being undertaken by the US Customs Service."

'Different findings'

Mendoza said the US Customs Service and the FBI differed in the findings of their separate investigations of Lacson's alleged accounts.

Based on the Filipino team's probe and information purportedly obtained through other official and "unofficial" channels, Corpus has alleged that Lacson laundered at least $211 million in three countries.

"The findings that we have are that of the US Customs Service. Let us wait for the FBI to finish its ongoing probe," Mendoza emphasized. The FBI investigates matters involving US domestic security concerns.

Corpus said US Customs agents were still investigating Lacson in the hope of filing a "money-laundering case and to secure an indictment" against the Filipino senator.

Corpus refused to reveal the intelligence information from the US Customs Service, but said he was willing to share it with the FBI and the US justice department if the Philippine Department of Justice deemed it necessary.

"We will just have to submit the US Customs and our own findings to the DOJ. It's up to the DOJ to share it with the FBI," Corpus said.

Searches

The letters did not reveal the account numbers or the amounts involved, but said the inquiries were made starting March 29 "to determine if Lacson or his wife currently hold, or have held in the past seven years, bank accounts, trust accounts, certificates of deposits, safe deposit boxes, etc."

The FBI conducted "searches and record checks of various databases, to include property records, public credit and location information profiles, and non-immigrant information for admission and departure from the US for the referenced individuals," the papers said.

The letters said several banks had no record of any accounts in the name of Lacson, but added that he used to have one account in the "BofA" that was closed five years ago. He was also issued a Visa card, one letter said. Lacson admitted in a privilege speech that he had an account in Bank of America but closed it several years ago.

Lacson also has a California driver's license, D2344504, while Alice has one registered as B7808969, one of the letters said. The couple listed their address as 14300 Terra Bella St., Unit 73, Panorama City, California, when they acquired their licenses on Dec. 12, 2000.

The address is among those identified by Corpus as belonging to the Lacsons.

But based on Los Angeles County property records, the Terra Bella unit is owned by Ricardo Gaw So and Rosalinda Tiu, the FBI letter said.

Property records of the Lacsons obtained by the FBI showed that the couple purchased a property located at 1011 Laguna Seca Loop, Chula Vista, California on Jan. 18, 1996 for $170,000, the letter said.

"This property was sold by Panfilo M. and Alice P. Lacson on April 10, 1999 for $185,000," it said.

NBI defies Ombudsman

Wycoco said the Office of the Ombudsman could not force his office to turn over the US documents, which he earlier said were given to the NBI by the US State Department in response to an official request.

"I can't divulge the contents of the documents while the process is ongoing. I can do so after the completion of the process," said Wycoco, referring to an ongoing joint investigation being conducted by the NBI and other agencies into allegations that Lacson laundered drug money in North America and Hong Kong.

He explained that under the RP-US Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, documents and information exchanged by the two governments are considered confidential.

He earlier said, however, that the evidence confirmed the existence of more than $50 million deposits in two California banks.

Desierto had subpoenaed the documents as part of his office's investigation of Corpus' allegations against Lacson and deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Lacson, his wife Alice and Joseph Estrada hold a total of around $1 billion kept in 18 joint or individual accounts in the United States, Canada and Hong Kong, according to Corpus.

Wycoco said that he asked for the evidence as early as March this year based on a complaint lodged by several Hong Kong Chinese traders against Lacson.

He said that as early as April this year, US authorities had already confirmed the existence of the accounts, prompting the NBI to pursue its investigation.

Hoping for indictment

Corpus said government witnesses have already executed sworn statements in a bid to help US authorities secure an indictment against Lacson in the United States.

"Our witnesses have executed their affidavits in the US because we have no money-laundering law here," Corpus said.

"Hopefully, he (Lacson) will be indicted there based on those affidavits."

He declined to identify the witnesses or say when they submitted their sworn statements.

The INQUIRER reported earlier that a joint military and police intelligence team that investigated Lacson's alleged accounts in California in June counted among its members an ex-PAOCTF agent, Mary Ong, alias Rosebud.

Rosebud, according to members of the team, was there to brief US customs agents about her supposed knowledge of Lacson's alleged illegal activities, including drug trafficking and kidnap-for-ransom schemes.

According to a mission report, the US agents were studying whether Ong could be used a witness in case they chose to file a money-laundering case filed against Lacson on American shores. ***With a report from Carlito Pablo***

Palace denies . . .

(From page A1)
conformed with the AFP's standard operating procedure.

But Golez issued a veiled warning to Corpus' "target."

"When Corpus is confronted by the members of the press, he normally accommodates them," Golez told reporters. "But now, he can always point to the (spokesperson) insofar as some announcements are concerned. That means he will have more time for his intelligence work. So this is bad news for his target."

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, AFP chief of staff, likewise denied that Corpus had been gagged.

"As far as I am concerned, no," Villanueva said when asked if he had restrained the Isafp chief from talking to the media.

Asked if the gag order may have come from higher authorities, he said: "I don't speak for others."

Adan himself, who officially speaks for the AFP, was visibly caught by surprise by the Palace announcement Tuesday that he would also serve as Isafp spokesperson.

Moments before Villanueva denied the gag order on Corpus, Adan said he had yet to confer with Tiglao and the AFP chief of staff regarding the guidelines on how he would perform the additional assignment.

Adan also said he needed to meet with Corpus for a briefing on the extent of Isafp's information on Lacson.

"These are very sensitive issues," he said.

Adan appeared relieved on hearing Villanueva say that the AFP was not putting Corpus on a leash.

"There's no gag order, after all, and Colonel Corpus can continue talking to you," a smiling Adan told reporters.

Language

But Tiglao said that for a clearer picture, reporters should also talk to Adan after talking to Corpus.

"They (Adan and Corpus) have to coordinate because it's different talking to the media," he said in Taglish over radio dzMM. "You have to be very accurate, very specific, in your language. Some of our officials may not know this. That's the real purpose of having a spokesman, especially if the information is raw. It has to be discussed with the spokesman."

Tiglao reiterated that Adan's designation as Isafp spokesperson should not be interpreted as a gag order.

"Since this involves numerous operational details, the AFP spokesperson would be in the best position to swiftly react to the queries," he said in Filipino.

Tiglao said basically the same things at his afternoon briefing for reporters.

"I didn't say (Tuesday) that there was a gag order. We are actually reminding or reinstituting the institutional framework for Colonel Corpus," he said.

He added that in announcing Adan's designation as Isafp spokesperson, what he merely wanted to say was that he would prefer questions on the intelligence operation to be referred to the AFP.

Tiglao's announcement of Adan's additional responsibility was made on the same day that Corpus publicly apologized for presenting to the media a wrong picture of Kim Wong, Lacson's friend and alleged drug financier.

Commenting on Corpus' mistake, Lacson said the military intelligence chief should have done "a little homework."

But Golez yesterday said in defense of Corpus: "You know, when you're a basketball star and you miss one goal, that doesn't make you a non-star."

Asked if the President had any comment on Corpus' blunder, Tiglao said she did not.

"She hasn't had the time to discuss it," he said. "As the President herself has said, the Isafp is equivalent to a bureau in the entire government bureaucracy and she can't be closely monitoring everything that the bureaus do."

Signals

Crispin Beltran, chair of the militant labor alliance Kilusang Mayo Uno and representative-elect of the party-list group Bayan Muna, warned that Malacañang's apparent gag order on Corpus might be misinterpreted.

"It sends the wrong signal. It makes it appear that the executive's faith in Corpus and his case against Lacson had weakened because of the recent picture mix-up," Beltran said, adding:

"Instead of backing down, the national government, the AFP and the Isafp should consolidate all documents and evidence against Lacson and push for an immediate Senate investigation. Lacson must not be allowed to recover lost ground and to heighten his confidence that he will again make a clean getaway."

Beltran also said Congress' eagerness to pass the anti-money laundering law should also lead to a serious investigation of Lacson and his supposed accomplices.

"Who put the Philippines on the list of countries with the biggest number of suspicious banking activities that make it a natural haven for money laundering? Who but the likes of the Marcoses, Joseph Estrada and his family, and Lacson?" Beltran said.

He also said Lacson's men should be put under surveillance in case they were planning to get back at the witnesses against their boss.

The militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya also urged Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, to start holding public hearings on the allegations of money laundering, drug trafficking and other crimes made against Lacson.

Arroyo had earlier said that hearings on the Lacson case would begin only toward the end of this month because most of the members of the blue ribbon committee were also members of the committee on defense and security.

That committee is set to hear Basilan priest Cirilo Nacorda's claim that five ranking military officers helped Abu Sayyaf bandits escape a military cordon last June 2 in the town of Lamitan.

But Pamalakaya national chair Rodolfo Sambajon said Arroyo should reconsider his plan to defer or postpone the investigation of Lacson.

"Mr. Lacson is no ordinary petty offender of law," Sambajon said. "He's an elected public official charged with first-rate crimes against the people. The Senate leadership should not waste this golden opportunity that would help fix an institution that was heavily damaged by Estrada's aborted impeachment trial. The Senate faces a make-or-break situation here."

Sambajon said Arroyo should realize that Lacson's allies in the Senate could have already devised a plan to save their "most prized" colleague from a formal inquiry.

He said Lacson's "knights in shining armor" in the Senate included Senators Vicente Sotto III, Blas Ople, Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Gregorio Honasan, Edgardo Angara and Luisa Ejercito. ***With a report from Philip C. Tubeza***

Results show 'overwhelming' no

(From page A1)
canvassing area at City Hall.

Cocjin and city schools division superintendent Ibrahim Guiapar did not show up at 6 p.m. Tuesday, delaying the canvassing.

Guiapar showed up Wednesday morning but said he was not aware about his designation as member of the board of canvassers.

Mayor Muslimin Sema favors the inclusion of Cotabato City in the ARMM and its designation as permanent seat of power, as strongly suggested by the President during her visit here on Monday.

Zamboanga votes

In Zamboanga City, despite bad weather, thousands of voters trooped to their precincts to register their rejection of the proposed expansion.

The Comelec placed voters' turnout at 60 percent. More people voted in the Christian-dominated areas than in Muslim-dominated villages.

Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat projected that the number of no votes would exceed 100,000.

In Pagadian City, the no vote won by a very wide margin, while in Zamboanga del Sur, partial, official results showed a similar outcome.

Arnold Panuncialman, city election officer, said the no votes totaled 31,846, or 47 percent of the 61,849 registered voters in 52 barangays.

Only 636 voted yes.

Teopisto Elnas, Comelec director for Zamboanga del Sur, said 104,824 people voted no in the province's 26 towns, while only 2,873 voted yes.

Wilfredo Balisado, Comelec director for Zamboanga Sibugay, said partial, official results from the province's 16 towns showed that the no votes were winning.

Even in the Muslim-populated towns of Naga, R.T. Lim, Tungawan and Alicia, the no vote was winning, Balisado said.

A similar trend was noted in nine of the 22 towns in Lanao del Norte.

In Dipolog City, 24,009 voted no as against 845 yes votes.

Palawan

In Puerto Princesa City in Palawan, only 89 of the 17,853 votes cast were in favor of the ARMM expansion.

Earlier, Palawan officials passed a resolution expressing strong sentiments against the proposal for the inclusion of their areas in the autonomous region.

The Comelec placed voters' turnout in the plebiscite at 75 percent. However, a failure of election was declared in at least two towns.

Presidential spokesperson Tiglao said the people "have spoken and especially those who have bothered to go out and vote" in Tuesday's exercise where 11 new provinces and cities were asked if they wanted to be included in the ARMM.

"So it's the people's voice, we can't do anything about it," Tiglao said, even as the canvassing was still going on.

However, Tiglao and National Security Adviser Roilo Golez noted the "very high" turnout in the plebiscite despite a campaign by the incumbent ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari to boycott the proceedings.

Golez said 50-60 percent of the registered voters in the ARMM and its prospective new member-provinces and cities participated in the plebiscite.

"This is very high since normally, a plebiscite has only a 25-30 percent turnout," Golez said.

But Golez said the ARMM plebiscite could not be compared with the turnout in partisan elections of local and national officials.

Misuari factor

"The second reason (for the success) is practically no untoward incident was reported. It was almost perfectly peaceful," Golez said.

He said the peaceful conduct of the plebiscite was "most especially" due to the "very statesmanlike manner" in which Misuari conducted himself.

Tiglao also said in a separate briefing that Misuari should be cited for the peaceful conduct of the plebiscite.

"There were some worries that the (Moro National Liberation Front would) disrupt the conduct of the plebiscite but I understand that Governor Misuari asked the MNLF to remain very peaceful," Golez said after attending the first meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council in Malacañang yesterday.

Eduardo Ermita, presidential adviser on the peace process, gave a briefing on the outcome of the plebiscite to Ledac, an advisory body on economic issues composed of Cabinet members and Congress leaders.

Golez said it was only in Sulu where the turnout was relatively low.

"Misuari succeeded in convincing his constituency there to boycott the elections, but nonetheless, the turnout was very high even in Basilan at 50 percent, in the Zamboanga provinces, Sultan Kudarat, Davao del Sur and others," Golez said. ***Reports from Aquiles Z. Zonio, Charlie C. Señase, Jonathan F. Ma, Hernan P. de la Cruz, Grace Cantal-Albasin, and Lullie A. Micabalo, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Ruelle Albert Castro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Juliet L. Javellana***

High court upholds Bayan Muna victory

(From page A1)

ner, Luzon Farmers Party (Butil). Both are also seeking to be proclaimed.

Akbayan and Butil, like Bayan Muna, garnered the minimum number of votes required to get at least one seat in the House, and passed the qualifications set by the Supreme Court for party-list groups.

Asked how the Comelec would comment on Akbayan and Butil's respective requests for proclamation, Benipayo said: "If they want to be proclaimed, then we will proclaim."

Ocampo, Beltran and Maza are expected to be sworn in as the newest members of the House of Representatives shortly after being proclaimed by the Comelec.

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo yesterday said that the three Bayan Muna party-list representatives would "hopefully" be proclaimed today.

"At long last, the wait is over!" declared a Bayan Muna advisory in big bold letters.

"Bayan Muna will be the first party-list winner to be proclaimed by the poll body after over two months of controversial delay," the group said.

Ocampo, former spokesperson of the National Democratic Front; Beltran, chair of the Kilusang Mayo Uno; and Maza, chair of the women's group Gabriela, will serve terms of three years each.

Only a TRO

According to Benipayo, only the Supreme Court's TRO stands in the way of the proclamation of Akbayan and Butil representatives. The two groups, respectively, garnered 2.5 percent and 2.2 percent of the 11.4 million total votes cast in May, thereby entitling them to one seat each in the House.

OCAMPO

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Bayan Muna topped the race with 11.36 percent of the votes cast. Under the party-list system, a group is entitled to a maximum of three seats if it gets at least 6 percent of the total vote.

Of the 10 winning party-list groups, only Bayan Muna, Akbayan and Butil passed the guidelines laid down by the SC as determined by the Comelec after a series of hearings held last month. The seven other winners were disqualified.

But on the eve of Bayan Muna's proclamation, the Philippine Association of Retired Persons, which ranked 96th in the party-list race, asked the Comelec to declare a failure of the party-list elections since there were only three qualified winners.

"The stark reality is that with only three winners, the party-list elections cannot be considered to be the will of the people by any stretch of the imagination," said Amado Cabaero, PARP president.

The Constitution reserves 20 percent of the membership of the House, or 52 out of 266 seats, to party-list representation. If only Bayan Muna, Akbayan and Butil representatives will be proclaimed, only five party-list representatives will sit in Congress.

2002

Cabaero, in a supplementary petition filed with the Comelec today, said a nationwide failure of the May 14 party-list election should be declared, and a new one held to coincide with the barangay elections in 2002.

"Only a new election under a redefined party-list law can the results be truly expressive of the will of the people," he said.

The 12th Congress opened on July 23 without a single party-list representative sitting pending the resolution of the disqualification cases filed by Bayan Muna and Bagong Bayani against 17 party-list groups led by the Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga.

The SC then ordered the Comelec on June 26 to review the qualifications of all 162 party-list groups based on eight guidelines.

In a partial compliance report submitted to the SC on July 27, the Comelec said only seven of the top 24 groups appeared to meet the criteria. These are Bayan Muna, Akbayan, Butil, Anak Mindanao (Amin), Alyansang Bayanihan ng mga Magsasaka, Manggagawang Bukid at Mangingisda (ABA), Sanlakas and Partido ng Manggagawa.

The groups with pending motions include Mamayan Ayaw sa Droga Foundation and Lakas-NUCD-UMDP.

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Cell phone saves lost young Brit

(From page A1)

the other side of the world using his mobile phone.

Darren Alcock, 23, got lost in the heavy rain and fog on the summit of Bluff Knoll in the Stirling Range national park, about 420 kilometers south of Perth.

Using his cell phone, he tried calling the Australian emergency services. But the telephone connection kept breaking.

So he rang his father, David, in Norfolk, England, who in turn alerted the Australian police.

Alcock was rescued late Tuesday by six State Emergency Service volunteers.

A police spokesperson said the tourist was cold, but otherwise unharmed. He had been on the mountain since early Tuesday, but was trapped when rain and fog enveloped him.

Police Sergeant Graham Clifford described Alcock as "a very lucky man."

Clifford said as many as a dozen people had joined the search after the alert had come via a phone call from England.

"(The rescuers) were about to stop for the night when they found him," Clifford said. "They were calling out to him and they heard somebody answer. That was when they saw him.

Bluff Knoll, a popular haunt for bushwalkers in summer, is one of the few places in Western Australia that has snow. It was not snowing however when Alcock set out on his lone climb.

The West Australian newspaper said David Alcock cried with relief when the paper told him his son was safe.

The father said his son loved Australia and he had been on a working holiday since March, the paper reported. *AFP, Reuters*

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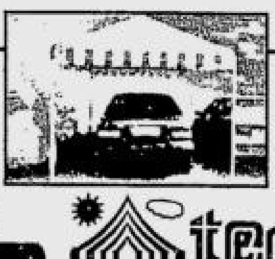

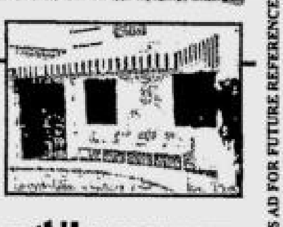

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Movies' future lies in hands of gov't, viewing public

(From page A1)

these bleak times: some reason to hope.

Inspiring tales

But there should be nothing Pollyanna-like about those productions. The inspiring tales should be grounded in the here and now, in tough reality—that's what would make their denouement so believable, and thus truly uplifting.

Actors? The big stars should lower their unrealistically high talent fees, as some of them already have, so that a larger part of the budget can go to better technicals and production values, which are what viewers have been demanding of late.

The government can also do a lot to save the local movie industry. First and most important, government officials should stop paying lip service to the key role that movies play in the nation's life, and actually believe it—*and* act on that belief.

There have been many government initiatives to help local movies in the past, but most of them have failed or fallen short because they were poorly or wrongly motivated (to get on movie people's good side so they would support politicians' electoral campaigns, etc.).

Conviction and focused action will come only when government officials see for themselves what a big influence movies are, not just on people's leisure hours, but on the way they think and feel; how they view life; what they expect of themselves, other people and institutions; their attitudes toward work, responsibility and their entire value system, etc.

With the right appreciation and motivation, they can more productively come up with reforms and incentives—such as the following 10 proposals—to help local films compete against foreign movies, and come into their own as craft, art and business.

10 steps

First, pass the bill that seeks to consolidate major private and government film initiatives under one coordinating body. Second, lower the onerous taxes that local producers have to pay. Third, give the Film Ratings Board real muscle by getting all Metro Manila mayors to remit the amusement taxes "earned back" by outstanding local productions.

Fourth, transform the MTRCB into a self-regulating industry body. Fifth, make sure that the Metro Manila Film Festival fields only quality films as official entries. Sixth, revive the Manila Film Festival with similarly stringent quality criteria.

Seventh, restore leadership in the Film Academy of the Philippines to film workers, not producers. Eighth, selectively lower admission prices for local movies, the better to compete against Hollywood blockbusters. Ninth, break down the barriers that make it difficult for new writing and directing talents to enter the TV-movie industries. Tenth, set up an organization that will aggressively market Filipino films abroad.

Viewers' stake

Despite all of these reforms and incentives, however, things won't really improve until Filipino viewers realize the major stake they have in this cinematic revitalization and rescue effort.

Those who've gotten fed up with predictable and sub-standard local movies and now exclusively patronize foreign films feel perfectly justified in making that radical move away from our own film products. But think what would happen if the situation were allowed to further deteriorate:

One film year, the local movie industry produced 160 films. Last year, it made only half that number. Next year, will the total further dip to 50?

Meanwhile, the number of foreign movies shown in this country remains steady, or even increases—and so does the income they generate. And so, the question: Whose country is this, anyway?

But the issue is not just economics. Far more important is the foreign cinematic culture that is being instituted in the Philippines with the ongoing drop in local movie production. Our films may sometimes (often?) do a bad job of it, but they're the only ones that reflect who we are, where we've been, and where we're going. Flawed though some of them may be, they deserve our continued support.

But that support should be selective. Viewers should take time to figure out which of the new local releases could turn out to be good movies, and thus deserve their patronage.

Just as responsible filmmaking is needed these days, so is responsible moviegoing. All too often, the people who criticize local movies for being lousy are the same ones who watch those lousy movies—*and* fail to support the good ones.

So, let's stop acting so above-it-all and aggrieved. Truth to tell, the local moviegoer is one of the reasons why Filipino films have gone from good to bad, and from bad to worse. Along with film people and government, it's time for the Filipino viewing public to face up to its faults, and to make up for them by more responsibly patronizing the local film products that deserve our support.

That way, if good movies make money at the tills, producers will make more of them, the general level of local movie production will rise both qualitatively and quantitatively, and the Filipino film industry will be prosperously and progressively back in business again.

We love happy endings, don't we? Well, if everybody works together to give local movies a boost, we can make this one happen.

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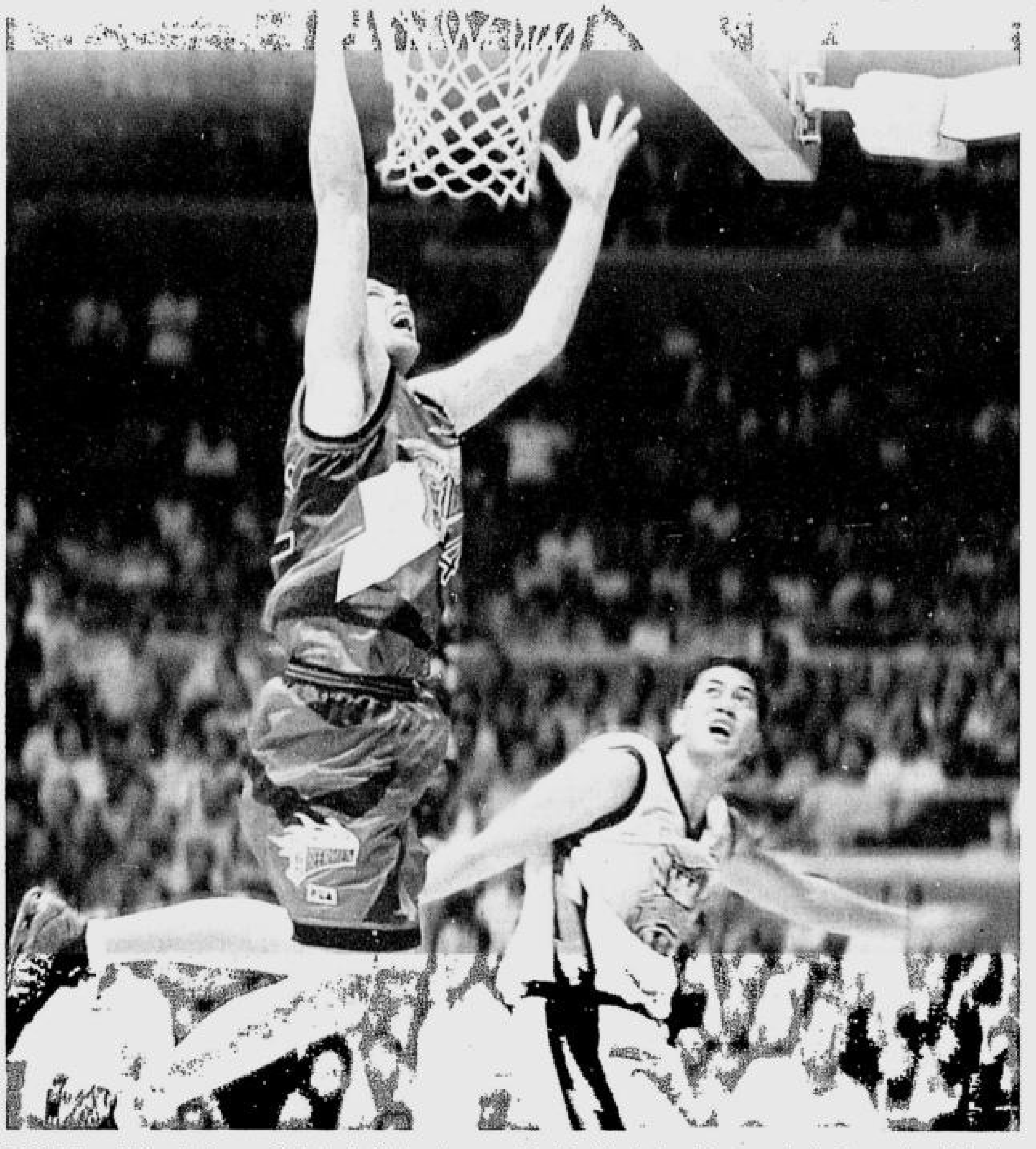
Red Bull wins anew, takes 2-0 lead



SAN Miguel Beer's Danny Seigle (left) dunks over Red Bull's Kerby Raymundo in Game 1 which the Thunder won, 80-78.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

GAME TOMORROW
(Philsports)
7 p.m. Red Bull vs SMB (Game 3)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SHOWING boundless energy, Red Bull outplayed defending champion San Miguel Beer, 92-86, last night to post a 2-0 lead in their PBA Commissioner's Cup finals series at the Philsports.

Junthy Valenzuela rained three-pointers even as the rest of the Thunder flustered the Beermen with their hustle to silence the highly partisan SMB crowd and move to within two victories of taking the title.

Only one team—Toyota—has managed to come back from 0-2 in league history. Toyota then beat SMB for the 1983 Reinforced Conference and that would be Red Bull's keystone in tomorrow's Game 3, also at Philsports.

San Miguel thus went down 0-2 only thrice in its 24 finals appearance and in the first two, the Beermen went on to lose the title.

"I don't think they fear us now," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao. "The pressure is on them."

The Beermen surely felt that pressure as they slowly yielded an eight-point lead in the first half and allowed the Thunder to take control by simply ganging up on any Beerman who dared to venture into the paint.

At the other end, Valenzuela thrived on double teams hurled at his more popular teammates by connecting seven triple, five of them in the pivotal second half, to frustrate San Miguel.

Antonio Lang also shone in Red Bull's free-wheeling offense, making 20 points including the human highlight double-pump that drew a foul from Danny Ildefonso with 1:31 left and gave the Thunder an 85-76 lead.

Lang's superb game also got the ire of Nic Belasco, who hacked him underneath while taking a shot, causing a near free-for-all with eight minutes left in the game and Red Bull ahead, 74-66.

Meanwhile, Ildefonso is leading the race for the 2001 Most Valuable Player award as of the end of the semifinals.

Ildefonso's strong showing in the MVP race lines himself up for a back-to-back MVP awards at the end of the year.

Scores:

RED BULL 92—Valenzuela 25, Lang 20 , Harp 15, Raymundo 9, Agustin 8, Torion 7, Miller 4, Mendoza 2, Tugade 2, Pennisi 0, Tanpua 0, Briones 0.

SAN MIGUEL 86—Johnson 24, Seigle 24, Ildefonso 15, Racela 12, Belasco 7, Lago 3, Peña 1, Abuda 0, Victoria 0.

Quarters. 23-18, 36-42, 67-60, 92-86.

Knights, Slashers set up duel

GAME TOMORROW
5 p.m.—Negros vs Andok's San Juan

By Roy Luarca

LIPA CITY—Omanzie Rodriguez isn't all defense, he can score when the situation warrants it.

The reedy Rodriguez, known for his shot-blocking prowess, canned a short corner jumper that enabled the Andok's San Juan Knights' to foil the LBC Batangas Blades' final rally and tally an 80-75 victory in the decider of their best-of-three MBA First Phase semifinal series with the Batangas Blades at the Sentrum de La Salle Lipa.

The Knights, who blew a 24-point spread early in the fourth quarter, thus arranged a finals showdown with the Negros Slashers starting tomorrow.

Negros, by virtue of its second-place finish in the elimination round, will enjoy the homecourt edge in the best-of-five series, which starts at the University of St. La Salle Gym in Bacolod City.

Rodriguez's final jumper stopped the Blades' comeback at 78-75 and gave the 6-foot-6 center 14 points, on top of two blocks, as he shared the limelight with Chris Calaguio and Bruce Dacia.

Scores:

ANDOK'S SAN JUAN 80—Calaguio 18, Dacia 16, O. Rodriguez 14, Reavis 13, Capobres 6, Victolero 6, Castillo 5, Newton 2, Otto 0.

LBC BATANGAS 75—Compton 16, Adducul 14, Laure 12, Serrano 11, Sanders 6, Espinosa 6, Martin 4, Antonio 4, Rivera 2.

Quarters: 28-13, 52-31, 60-53, 80-75.

Golden Girls nose out Michigan

KALAMAZOO, Michigan—Esmeralda Tayag and Emily Batac delivered as the MayniLA Golden Girls nipped host Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1-0, Tuesday in the Big League Girls' Softball World Series at the Wilson Field here.

Tayag pitched a four-hitter without relief, while Batac produced the winning run as the Filipinas kept their hopes alive in earning a seat in the finals.

The victory of the Golden Girls, mentored by Filomeno "Boy" Codiñera, came after they suffered a 3-6 loss to Puerto Rico. Codiñera, who was unable to join the team when it left Manila Saturday, finally arrived here two hours before his squad faced the Puerto Ricans.

The Filipinas are now tied for third spot with Puerto Rico and Antelope Valley of California.

Cheering drive to boost KL-bound Philippine team

MILO, the Olympic Energy Drink, is launching the Milo Southeast Asian (SEA) Games Cheers Campaign, an acivity in which students in 1,000 schools all over the country will select an official cheer in support of the Philippine team.

The cheer campaign, intended to provide moral support for the athletes, will be conducted by Milo with the Philippine Olympic Committee. During the campaign, dubbed "Sugod Pinoy! Give your team A Cheer," Milo Energy Teams will visit public and private schools nationwide to conduct a cheer selection activity.

The Milo Energy Teams will visit schools in Metro Manila, Davao, Cebu, Bacolod, Lipa, Naga, Pampanga,Pangasinan, Baguio and Cagayan de Oro this month.

The selection of the best cheer will be based on votes cast by the students. On the day of the activity, Milo will show an audiovisual presentation on the vote procedure. Students will be presented with a pre-recorded interpretation of the cheers performed by the Far Eastern University Cheering Squad. Ballots with a selection of cheers will be distributed. The students will rank the selection of cheers from one to five; one being the most preferred, five the least preferred. The cheers to be ranked by the students are titled "Mga Pinoy" (to the tune of Waray-waray), "Sa Tagumpay" (to the tune of Bongga Ka Day), "Go, Go, Panalo" (to the tune of Sitsiritsit), "Pilipino" (to the tune of Gloria), and "Panahon na Pilipino" (to the tune of Bonggahan).

After the students cast their votes, they will be provided with cups of Milo. Interactive games like the basketball shootout, taekwondo pads and Nescafe dance revolution machines will be set up for their fun and enjoyment.

Through the years, Milo has been an active supporter of the Philippine teams in international sports events. The Milo "Support our Philippine Team" Campaign was first implemented in 1996 to support and encourage RP athletes at the Atlanta Olympics. In 1998, a similar campaign was launched for the delegation to the SEA Games. Last year, Milo collected a million cheers of encouragement for the country's Sydney Olympics-bound athletes.

Andrew Bramston, Nestle vice president for coffee and beverage, said Milo has always strongly supported athletic events and athletes because of its commitment to the development and growth of sports and the youth in the country. "With such undertakings, Milo reaches out to the youth and encourages them to get into sports," he added.

Juan Miguel Alvarez, Milo brand manager, said the Milo Cheers Campaign is another opportunity to let the youth know the benefits of sports. "Sports is

PGA AP

Tiger Woods, gunning for a record-tying third PGA crown this week, in practice.

Chua, Garcia rule age-group chess

NINE-YEAR-OLD Gregory Chua and 6-year-old Jan Emmanuel Garcia emerged overall champions in the blitz age-group tournaments held during the opening of the fifth series of Milo Checkmate Saturday-clinic at the 2/F Center Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center and Badminton Bldg., Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Chua, a Grade 4 student of Xavier, beat under-12 champion Eumir Songcuya II in the third and final championship round to rule the age-group event at GSC. The under-8 first placer Garcia of San Beda scored an upset against favored rival Bruce Alfred Reyes to cap the blitz title at RMSC.

However, Chua and Garcia missed the grand slam plum as they failed to rattle International Master Rafaelito Maninang Jr. in the 50-minute clock simul that highlighted the clinic's fifth term launching. For their feats, both were awarded MCC chess sets.

These age-group competition in under-8, under-10; under-12 and under-18 categories and the clock-simul vs Masters are parts of the clinic's pre-evaluation activities held before the enrollees are given a seven-consecutive Saturdays formal chess lectures which will start this coming Saturday, Aug. 18 to Sept. 29. The clinic will culminate with the staging of a tournament by courses and levels, another clock-simul vs Masters and age-group competitions.

Enrollment is still open until Aug. 25 for young chessers who are 5-18 years old. The clinic will also serve as preparation for the second qualifying series (set on Sept. 2 and 16) to select the members of the team who will represent Checkmate in international stints next year. For more details, call MCC at 826-8560 and 0919-331-0206.

The first set of qualifiers for 2002 were: Under-8—Christy Lamiel Bernales, Jan Emmanuel Garcia and Jan Jodilyn Fronda; Under-10—Jude Emil Fronda; Eumier Songcuya II and Elijah Songcuya III; Under-12—Aaron Khrisna Rivas, Menachem Loyola and Randolph Pascua; Under-18—Jayveelyn Fronda, Nestor Fernandez II and Paolo Bautista.

Tangalin surprises favorite

BAGUIO—Jimmy Tangalin tripped favored clubmate Jun Cortez, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, in the semifinal but ended up sharing the junior men's 21-under division title with St. Louis University's Jan Thomann and Emerson Ocampo of San Beda-Manila due to heavy rains at the close of the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2001 Monday here at the Burnham Park claycourts.

The CTW organizers also declared SLU's Chaya Pascual and Phyllis Padong, who tripped Jayrhen Wee, 6-1, 6-4, earlier, co-champions in the junior women's 21-under bracket.

The only completed contest in the Adidas netfest supported by Milo and Sports Kids was /Erika Rok who demolished Ana Tan, 6-2, 6-2, in the girls' 14-under bracket.

Akio Sy and Jaime Mamawal likewise shared the honors in the unisex 10-under class; Tan and Nikki Antolin in the girls' 12-under category; Christian Canlas and Daniel Macalino in the boys' 14-under division; and Canlas with Andrew Tangalin in the boys' 12-under group.

Capriati whips Slovakian teener

TORONTO — Jennifer Capriati kept her US Open preparations on course Tuesday by beating Slovak teenager Daniela Hantuchova in the second round of the $ 1.2-million Rogers AT&T Cup.

Capriati claimed a hard-fought 5-7, 7-5, 6-2 win on the National Tennis Center's soldout, sun-drenched center court, setting up a third-round showdown with fellow American Meilen Tu.

The key for Capriati was recovering from a 4-1 deficit in the second set. She fought back with three service breaks, including one to close out the 12th game.

Both players had numerous chances in that game before Hantuchova's forehand sailed wide to force the third set.

AP

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: LPGA Wendy's Championship for Children, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN

PGA Buick Open, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r), Highlights at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports

BASKETBALL: 21st ABC Championship for Men 2001, Semifinal #1 at 8 a.m. (r), Semifinal #2 at 9:30 a.m. (r), 3rd Place Game at 6 p.m., Finals at 7:30 p.m. on Star Sports

TENNIS: Masters Series (Cincinnati) Highlights at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN

VOLLEYBALL: 2001 BVA Clearwater Beach Open at 5 p.m. on ESPN

France Open -Women's Semifinals tomorrow at 12:30 a.m. on Star Sports

BASEBALL: Wednesday Night Baseball at 7 a.m. (r – midnight) and 10 a.m. on ESPN

BILLIARDS: 2001 BCA Open 9-Ball Championship, Women's Semifinals at 6 p.m. (r), Finals at 9 p.m. on ESPN

BOXING: Fight Time on Fox 2001 at 9:30 p.m. on Star Sports

SOCCER: World Cup Mix at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports and 8:30 p.m. on ESPN

SPORTSWATCH

Parks lifts Cebu cagers

BAGUIO CITY—Former Shell import Bobby Parks sparkled as ML Kwarta Padala turned back PBL Challenge Cup champion Shark Energy Drink, 80-69, Tuesday in the 2nd PBL Athletes' Haven Cup at the Baguio Colleges Foundation gym here. The 6-foot-3 Parks finished with only 13 points but his court leadership motivated the Cebuano crew to push hard en route to the morale-boosting upset victory. Ronald Paraiso led the Cebuanos with 18 points while Aldrin Ocanada added 15 in the win that was enough to catapult the Cash Forwarders to the sudden-death championship match tomorrow against the winner between Welcoat Paints and defending champion Blu Detergent tonight at 7. A win over Gilligan's Island tonight will install the ML Kwarta Padala on top of Group I to formally clinch the first finals slot—a task coach Raul "Yayoy" Alcoseba considered as done. Blue Detergent started its title retention bid with an overwhelming 103-58 win over Baguio Selection.

Bombers gun for 8th victory

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)—12nn—JRU vs SBC (jrs/srs); 3 p.m.—SSC vs CSB (jrs/srs). After sweeping its first-round assignments, Jose Rizal University embarks on yet another impossible mission: sustain its unbeaten slate for the remainder of the 77th NCAA basketball tournament season. And that ambitious campaign will start today when the Heavy Bombers face the San Beda Red Lions at 1:30 p.m. Wary about the Red Lions' potential to pull off an upset, the Heavy Bombers will take one step at a time to prevent a similar incident that befell the Mandaluyong-based dribblers last year.

British U offers golf degree

LONDON — College students are notorious for skipping class on a sunny day to sneak in a round of golf. That won't be necessary at one English university. In fact, it may be encouraged. The University of Birmingham is preparing to offer the country's first B.A. degree in golf with many classes held at The Belfry, the famous site of next month's Ryder Cup in central England between the United States and Europe. Sound too good to be true? It's not. But get in line quickly. The first class will be enrolled a year from now. Only 25 students will be accepted and already applications are flooding in from around the globe. *AP*

Bert's 'Christmas in November'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BERT Bravo got hit by his philanthropic ways anew. My, my. Come November, he will bankroll the Ubix-Riviera National Pro-Am at the Riviera Golf & Country Club in Silang, Cavite.

"About time we remembered our golfers again," he said.

By any stretch of imagination, the remembering will be costly: P1.5 million.

"Our humble way of showing our continuing concern for our golfers," Bert said.

Bert has done it before. Not just once or twice but thrice. He's had the Manila Konica Open at Manila Golf, repeating it at Southwoods before staging the U-Bix Philippine Open at Wack Wack a while back. All three were smash hits. I am amazed that no one has yet built a monument for Bert by way of paying tribute to his love for our golfers.

"We all love the game and we have in our thoughts our golfers' welfare all the time," Bert said. "I can't think of any thing to show my concern for them other than hold a tournament for their benefit."

The National Pro-Am used to be held at the now-extinct Fort Bonifacio course. This tournament began in 1956 with professional Pastor Domingo and amateur partner Dr. Roberto Laperal as inaugural winners.

"The Pro-Am is rich in lore and one of the most memorable episodes of the annual event was the partnership of Tino Tugot and his daughter, Sonia," said Taby "Insan" Tabaning, 82, one of the event's founders. "Sonia teed off in the men's tee and, if memory serves right, Tino and Sonia finished a respectable sixth."

That was in the early '70s.

Ka Tino, a six-time winner of the Philippne Open, went on to team up with many other amateurs, one of whom was a then skinny lad by the name of Frankie Miñoza. Some years later, Miñoza would emerge the country's No. 1 professinal parbuster; he hasn't relinquished that position.

The tournament, scrapped some years back with the death of the Fort Bonifacio layout, will be held Nov. 14-17. The country's Top 80 players will team up with amateurs of their choice.

"Nobody will be seeded and all applicants will be screened carefully," said Commodore Danny Pizarro of host Riviera. "This year's winners will not even be seeded and they need an invitation for them to be able to defend their crown next year."

The event's luster will be restored and, to add a new dimension to it, Benny Gopez of the organizing committee has suggested that the trophy symbolic of the championship be called the Bravo Cup.

"Approved without mercy," said *Insan* Taby, effectively derailing Bert's attempt to derail Benny's idea.

And because blue is Bert Bravo's favorite color, I suggested that the winning pair should each receive a jacket which would be aptly called the "Blue Blazer."

"Approved without thinking, *Insan*," said Taby.

For all intents and purposes, the tournament is Bert's "Christmas in November" for our golfers.

Oh, Bert, your kindness is killing me.

RACING TIPS

AT SAN LAZARO BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Baccarat 2. God Is Good 3. Piker's Palace 4. Pen Tristram

Race 2—1. Hinobaan's Pride 2. Dancinag Kiara 3. Star of Arabia 4. Kala Star 5. Manlaman

Race 3—1. Gracious Heart 2. Courage 3. Samahan 4. Sweet Topic

Race 4—1. Lucky El 2.Ikaw 3. D Pen Traveller 4. Mighty Swift 5. Southern Gent

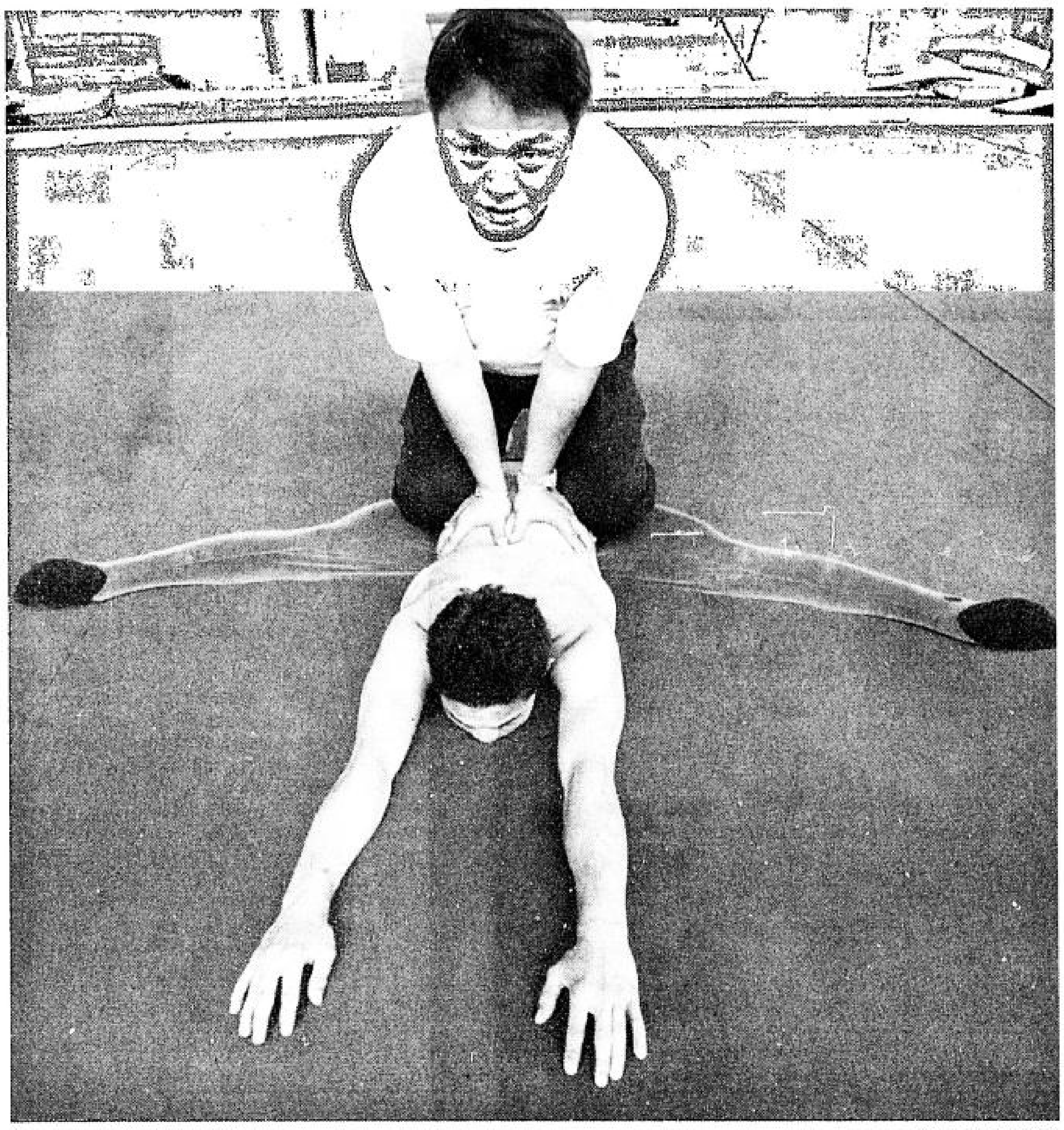
Race 5—1. Morena 2. Staunch Ally/ Fast Eddie 3. D Raven/Proud Conquistador 4. Art of Rose

Race 6—1. Touch of Luck 2. Voltes May 3. Nervioso 4. Mighty Dragon 5. Grand Dragon

Race 7—1. Ohayo Gozaimas 2. Another Sam 3. Imperial Passion 4. True Mighty

Race 8—1. Prestige 2. My Prayer 3. Filthy Rich 4. Passionately 5. Timber Nectar 6. Snub Nose

Race 9—1. Great Hill 2. Impeccable/ Ariana's Pride 3. Bullit Express 4. Luxor



COACH Santiago Ty working out with gymast Ruel Ramirez (on floor).

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

SEAG PREVIEW

Gymnasts eye productive stint

BY DENNIS U. EROA

PIA Adelle Reyes, who became the country's sporting sweetheart after winning four gold medals in the 1997 Jakarta SEA Games, is back and things look bright for the Philippine gymnastics team in the coming event in Malaysia.

In a determined bid to snatch overall honors in Kuala Lumpur, Pia and her younger sister Precious, Kyla Purugganan, Ainna Dofuntorum and Poveda stalwart Ana Cruz all trained at Gymnax, in Costa Mesa, California, under the watchful eyes of leading Chinese coaches and local mentor Liza Po.

"We hope to win at least four golds,"said coach Tony Valenzuela.

Pia is expected to figure prominently in the battle for the individual all-around gold, considering that she's entered in the vault, bars, beam and floor competitions.

Gymnastics wasn't included in the sporting calendar of the Brunei SEA Games two years ago where the country finished fifth overall.

Not only the rhythmic women's team but the men's side is also looking forward to a "productive" campaign.

Coach Santiago Ty, a veteran of the World Championships and many-time SEA Games veteran, echoed Valenzuela's prediction."I'm actually looking at three or more golds," said Sy, who supervises the daily grind of the nationals at the sweltering Gymnastics gym at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Brothers Ruel and Al Ramirez and Bryndon Sy willn spearhead the country's campaign. Ty said the country will meet stiff opposition from Indonesia and Thailand."Malaysia, being the host, can also spring some surprises."

Assisting Ty is another former SEA Games veteran Robinjen Padiz. "We won four golds in the 1999 Chiang Mai SEAG and we hope to do better," said Ty. He stressed that they have already scouted the oppposition in the coming event.

"We're going to Malaysia well-prepared," Ty said. "Now, we have to do some hard work and come back with the golds."

Let's wait decision of Fiba, says Tiny

BY JUNE NAVARRO

QUINTELIANO "Tiny" Literal yesterday said his group sent a communication to the Switzerland-based International Basketball Federation (Fiba) appealing for the reinstatement of the country to the world governing body in the sport.

Literal said he sent the letter a day before he met with Fiba secretary general Borislav Stankovic in Saitomi, Japan over the weekend during the World Young Men's Championships.

As of the moment, Literal said his group is awaiting Fiba's decision on his plea. He added Fiba's reply would come within the week.

"I'm not appealing for the BAP but for the multitude of basketball-loving Filipinos," said Literal.

The appeal, he added, focused not about the Fiba sending over a joint arbitration committee with the International Olympic Committee but rather imploring the Fiba to lift the ban.

"Let's just wait for the decision of the Fiba because nobody could overturn the suspension not even the highest officials of the land and the media except for the Fiba," he said.

But although the thought of bringing over the Fiba and IOC emissaries to arbitrate was excluded in his plea, Literal said he was amenable to the idea to end the 8-month old squabble.

"I already agreed to it a long time ago only that I don't want to make it public until the problem is completely solved," he said.

Games incomplete sans RP 5

BY JUNE NAVARRO

INSTEAD of jubilating, chief rivals Thailand and Malaysia expressed dismay over the possible non-participation of the RP men's basketball squad in the Southeast Asian Games in September.

Chief of mission Freddie Jalasco yesterday said Malaysian and Thai officials had that reaction after the chiefs of mission meeting in Kuala Lumpur over the weekend.

"The SEA Games is not complete without the Philippine basketball team," Jalasco quoted Malaysian and Thai officials as saying.

During his two-day visit in the host city, Jalasco submitted the final cast of the 354-strong RP delegation including the men's and women's basketball teams. The list also includes 157 officials.

"We submitted the basketball lineups in order to fill in the slots and wait until the Fiba lifts the suspension," said Jalasco.

Citing the SEAG rulebook, he added the list could still be altered and replaced until the managers' meeting a day before the Sept. 9 opening.

Jalasco noted no eyebrows were raised on the inclusion of the basketball teams but officials wondered which the country had not fielded a men's football team.

Masbate 'Kasibulan' program launched

KASIBULAN Chair Juan Miguel Romualdez recently announced that the competition phase in Masbate of Kasibulan 6-12 dubbed Adidas Predator Cup (APC), had its successful inaugurals in Masbate, Masbate, recently.

Twenty teams joined the tournament for both 6 to 8 year-old kids and 20 teams for the 9 to 10 year-old tots.

Also held were tournaments for both the East and West districts of Aroroy, Masbate, in the project sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation.

Kasibulan instructor Rommel Fornea, in cooperation with the Department of education, Culture and Sports (Kasibulan's partner), has scheduled 17 more APCs in the different districts of Masbate where the Milo Teach the Teachers seminars had been conducted.

Romualdez said some new 6,000 young football players shall have completed the APCs Kasibulan 6-12 grassroots development program in Masbate by the end of the year.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	70	49	.588	-
Boston	65	52	.556	4
Toronto	56	63	.471	14
Baltimore	50	69	.420	20
Tampa Bay	42	78	.350	28 1/2
Central				
Cleveland	66	52	.559	-
Minnesota	64	55	.538	2 1/2
Chicago	58	59	.496	7 1/2
Detroit	48	69	.410	17 1/2
Kansas City	48	71	.403	18 1/2
West				
Seattle	86	33	.723	-
Oakland	68	51	.571	18
Anaheim	63	56	.529	23
Texas	52	67	.437	34

NATIONAL LEAGUE

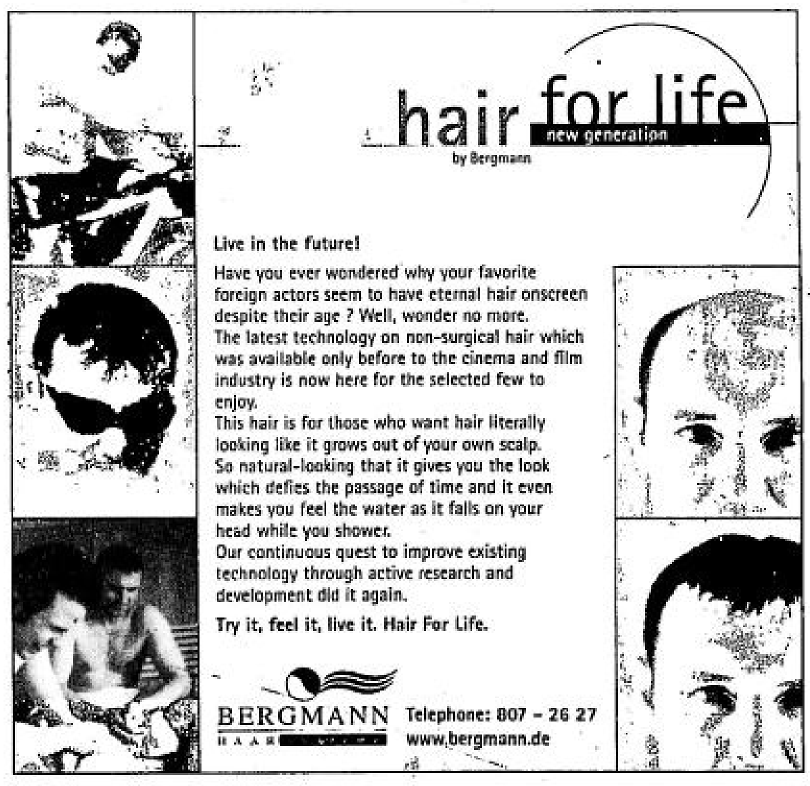
East	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	66	52	.559	-
Atlanta	64	54	.542	2
Florida	59	59	.500	7
New York	54	65	.454	12 1/2
Montreal	50	69	.420	16 1/2
Central				
Chicago	67	51	.568	-
Houston	67	52	.563	1/2
St. Louis	63	55	.534	4
Milwaukee	49	67	.422	17
Cincinnati	48	70	.407	19
Pittsburgh	45	73	.381	22
West				
Arizona	68	51	.571	-
San Francisco	67	52	.563	1
Los Angeles	65	54	.546	3
San Diego	58	60	.491	9 1/2
Colorado	50	68	.424	17 1/2

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Seattle 6, Boston 3, 11 innings; Toronto 6, Oakland 3; Anaheim 7, Detroit 1; Cleveland 8, Minnesota 7, 11 innings; Baltimore 5, Kansas City 2; N.Y. Yankees 5, Tampa Bay 3; Chicago White Sox 7, Texas 4.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Chicago Cubs 3, Houston 1; Philadelphia 10, Milwaukee 4; St. Louis 7, Cincinnati 1; Colorado 5, Atlanta 4, 10 innings; San Diego 6, N.Y. Mets 0; Arizona 4, Pittsburgh 3, 10 innings; Montreal 4, Los Angeles 1; San Francisco 13, Florida 7. AP



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Laguna gov backs Pinoy sluggers

LAGUNA Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro has thrown her full support behind the Philippine baseball team that will compete in the first Pan Pacific Baseball Championships Aug. 24-31 at the Subic Freeport Zone.

"We are thankful for the kind gesture of Gov. Lazaro and the provincial government for sponsoring the national team, which has been looking for a sponsor for sometime now," said Philippine Tot Baseball Foundation president Rodolfo "Boy" Tingzon, who is also organizing the championships.

Korea, Japan and Taiwan have confirmed their participation in the weeklong tournament staged by the PTBFI and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

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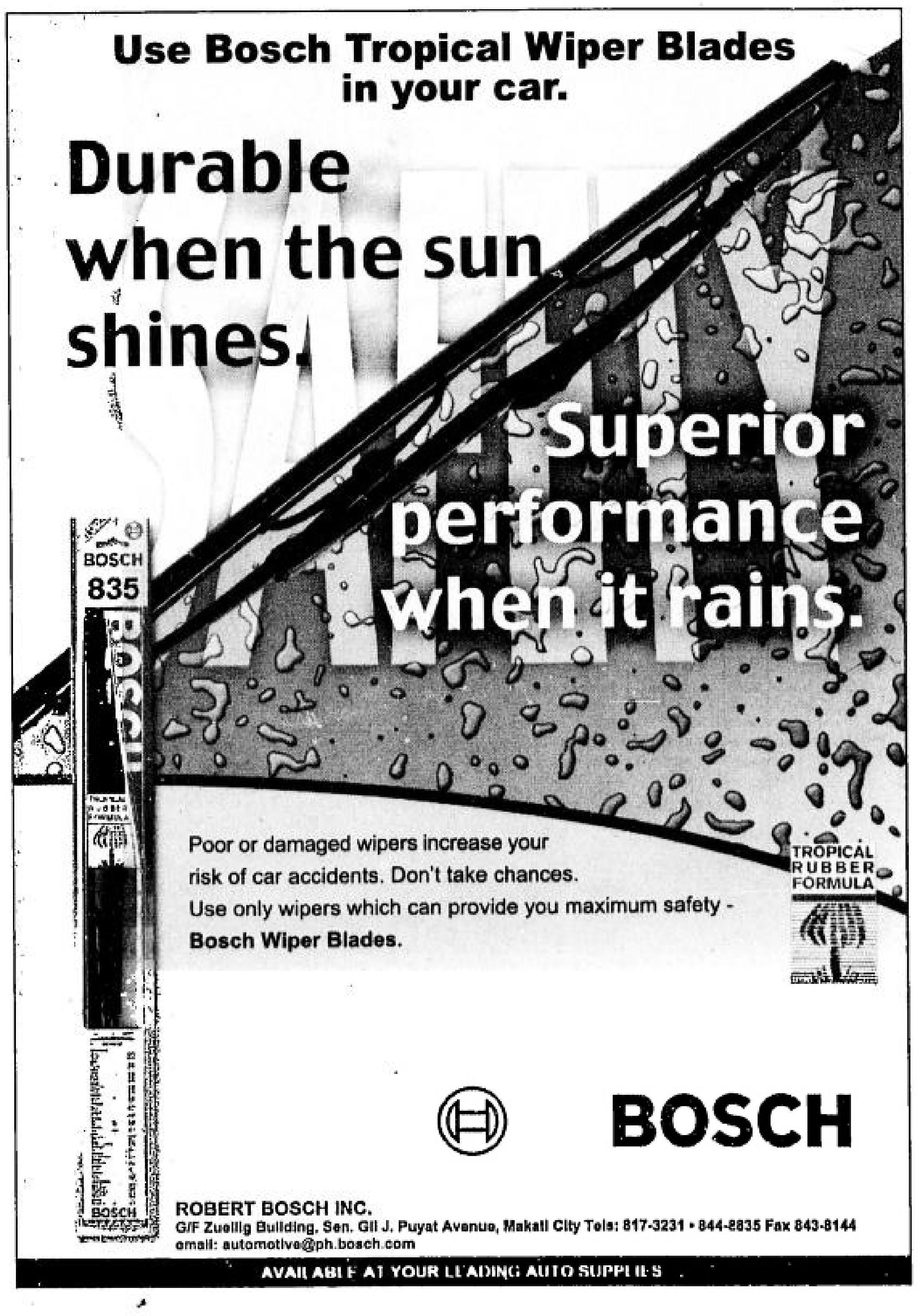

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5-K Makati run offers P5,000

SOME 1,000 runners, walkers and joggers are expected to join at 6 a.m. on Sunday the first Metro Manila Christian Church 5-K "You're One in A Million" Run in Makati. Organized by the Sports Marketing Division of Hemisphere Leo Burnett in cooperation with Hope Worldwide Inc. and the Ayala Commercial Center, the event offers P5,000 and other prizes to the winners. Call Ed Dames at 884-8030 for details.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

▪ PBA, MBA results A14
▪ Golden Girls beat Michigan A14
▪ Literal goes solo, appeals to Fiba A15
▪ Malaysia, Thailand take pity on BAP A15

Tree planting to mark SEAG-bound team sendoff

TUASON

MEMBERS of the 488-strong Team Philippines to the 21st Southeast Asian Games will plant seedlings to mark the sendoff on Aug. 31. The Games will be held in Kuala Lumpur Sept. 8-17.

This was announced yesterday by Butch Tuason, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission.

A first in Philippine sports history, the tree-planting session will be held at the Quezon Institute Compound in Quezon City.

PSC and Olympic officials will join the athletes, coaches and trainers in the unique activity which, organizers hope, will see the presence of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The President is expected to receive Team Philippines at the Palace grounds in the morning where a symbolic tree-planting activity will be held.

"We agreed on the endeavor since the sports community, like each and everyone of us, has its obligation to the environment," Tuason said.

The occasion is dubbed "A Thousand and One Trees For Sports, Unity and Mother Earth."

Also joining the President and Tuason are POC president Celso Dayrit, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez, QI director Ernesto M. Molina and POC-PSC Media Group president Jun Lomibao.

The trees, Tuason said, would be cared for by the athletes, coaches and officials up to 2005 when they will be transplanted to strategic and aesthetic areas in the main venue of the 2005 Sea Games in Manila.

"This is one of the endeavors the PSC would like to engage the sports community in since it is an appropriate team-building endeavor that would help push the psyche of the athletes," said Tuason.

Tuason said he was optimistic Team Philippines would perform to expectations—that is, breaching the conservative 40-gold medal prediction and breaking into fourth place overall anew.

"The government, particularly the PSC, has done its share to make this team a fighting and winning team. And we are optimistic the athletes would deliver come competition time," said Tuason.

Army, Airmen clash

Games Sunday
1 p.m.—Navy vs Kaya FC
3:30 p.m.—Army vs PAF

ARCH-RIVALS Army and Air Force scored convincing victories Sunday to arrange a showdown for the 1st Army-Utilco International invitational football championship at the Ascom field in Fort Bonifacio.

The Armymen blanked Kaya FC, 3-0, while the Airmen toppled Navy, 5-1.

Army and Air Force will dispute the crown at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 19 after Navy and Kaya mix it up for third place at 1 o'clock.

After a scoreless first half, Jeffrey Lobaton, Luis Brillantes and Billy Estrella struck in the 55th, 60th and 68th minutes, respectively, to power Army to victory.

The game was nip and tuck in the first half, but once Lobaton broke the ice, there was no stopping Army's charge.

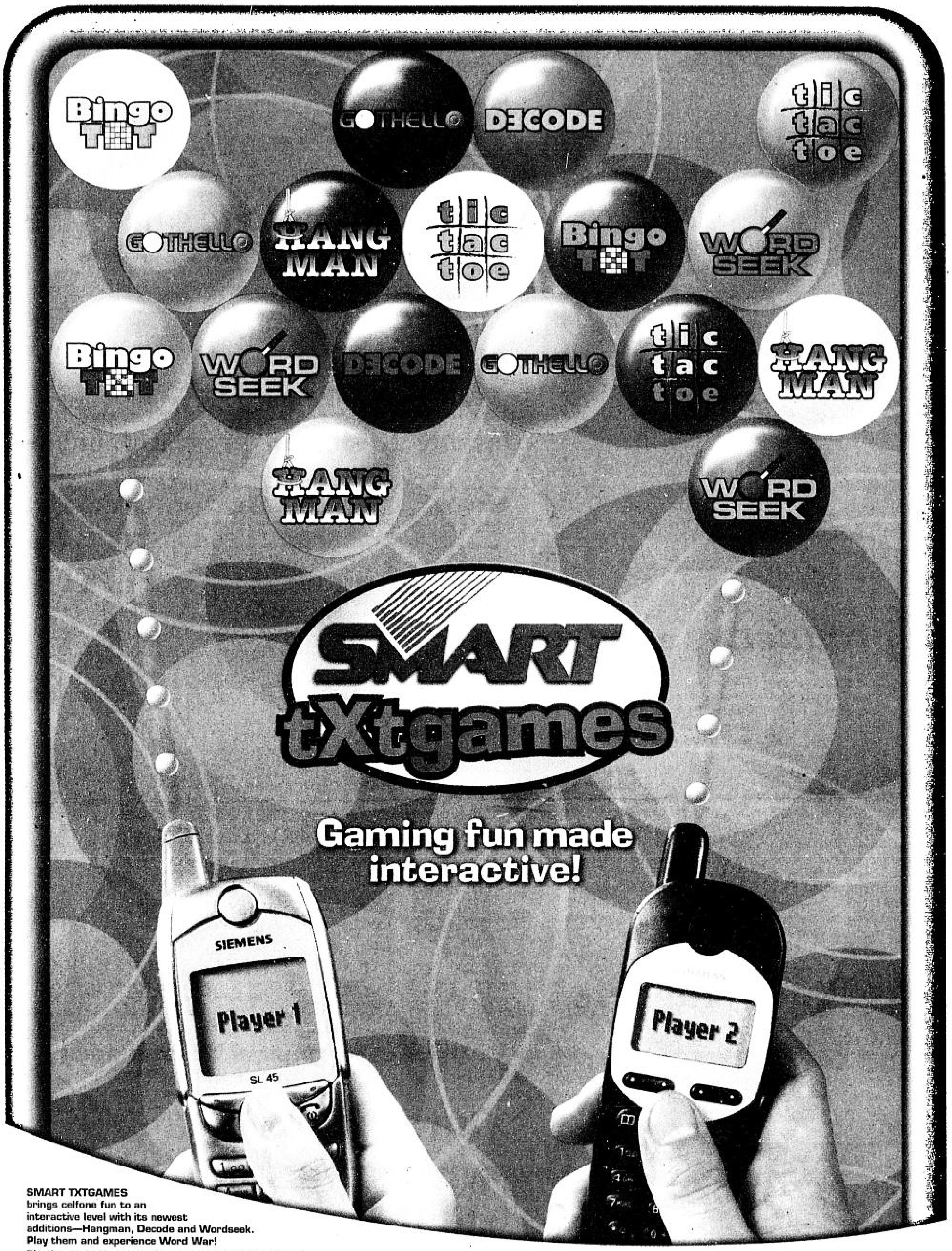
The Airmen surged to a 2-0 lead on goals by Raymond Tonog and Ian Araneta in the 12th and 20th minutes, but Navy's Jimmy Dona trimmed the lead with a marker in the 50th.

Yanti Bersales, Jezruel Tonog and Edzel Bacamante completed the route by coming through with one goal each in the 75th, 83rd and 88th minutes, respectively.

Lobaton is the leading scorer so far in the tourney organized by Army, sponsored by Utilco International Trading and sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation with 12 goals, followed by Barsales and Araneta with 10 and 11, respectively.

10 YEARS AGO

GERARD Cantada carded a final round 76 to settle for fourth place in the middle school division of the second Korea Cup International high school golf championship in Seoul.



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GOTHELLO	PLAY GTLO	HELP GTLO
BINGOTXT	PLAY BT	HELP BT
HANGMAN	PLAY HM	HELP HM
DECODE	PLAY DC	HELP DC
WORDSEEK	PLAY WS	HELP WS

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Each message sent to 238 will be charged P2.50

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Guess the letters in the word leading to the phrase before your opponent does.	Unscramble letters to reveal the secret word.	Outwit your opponent by forming more words from the letters in a given word.	Place your symbols in a row of three before your opponent does.	Switch your opponent's symbols into your own by making moves in slots where your opponent's symbols are.	Place your symbols in a row of four before your opponent does.

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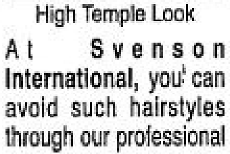

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MON.-FRI. ([illegible] AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY ([illegible] AM - 3 PM)

ZUMEL

Tribute for Tony Zumel

THERE will be a tribute for Antonio Zumel, revolutionary leader and veteran journalist, on Friday at the Church of the Holy Sacrifice in UP Diliman, Quezon City. The eucharistic celebration will be at 7 p.m. while the program starts at 8 p.m. Relatives, peers in journalism and comrades in the progressive movement will be among the speakers. Zumel passed away in Utrecht on Monday.

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'I was hired to kill Ate Vi'

Police bare P15-M contract on main target; drug lords eyed

SANTOS

BY MEI MAGSINO,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

A CONFESSED would-be assassin told authorities the other day that he was part of an eight-man liquidation squad out to kill Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos and her husband Sen. Ralph Recto.

After confirming the identity of the hired guns from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Camp Crame, Quezon City, Philippine National Police officials yesterday said they have tripled the security cordon of the lady mayor and her husband.

Supt. Antonio Atienza Jr., head of the Lipa City Police Office, said he learned from the alleged hit man that the former actress has a P15-million contract on her head. A bigger amount has been earmarked for her husband Senator

I WAS/A19

CAMERA SHY RANDY HORMILLOSA

There's no way these women would bare their faces to photographers. They were among those arrested on Tuesday for working without permit at the Chaos Club on Roxas Boulevard. Other vagrants, petty criminals and suspected prostitutes were also rounded up in separate anti-crime operations at the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex, the Pasay-Taft Rotunda and on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City.

Pa, daughter freed; ransom recovered

AN ethnic Chinese-Filipino father and his daughter who were kidnapped by unidentified gunmen last week have been safely rescued, police said yesterday.

Jovet Tee, 41, and his 7-year-old daughter Genina were rescued Monday at a shopping mall where the kidnappers were to receive a P935,000 ransom they had negotiated with the victims' families.

The two were snatched on Aug. 8 near the girl's school.

Police said they also recovered the ransom money and were on the trail of the suspects who escaped and are believed to have fled to a hotel somewhere in Northern Manila.

Foreigners and members of the economically influential ethnic Chinese community are among the prime targets of kidnappers. *Agence France Press*

WAZZZZUP? ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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DOWNTOWN Music Bar & Restaurant	PINKY MARQUEZ ISAY ALVAREZ	BIMBO C/DYORDS J. ☎373.3333
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EXAMINER'S LITE n' LIVE #53 EXAMINER ST. Q.C.	BLAKDYAK ENTITY	P 200 CONSUMABLE 373.2221/373.7183
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Foreigners on hunger strike

Detainees also protest corruption, extortion, denial of due process

BY ALCUIN PAPA

ALL 104 foreigners detained at the Bureau of Immigration detention center in Bicutan, Taguig have gone on hunger strike to protest the alleged lack of medical attention.

The mass action followed the death of an Indian detainee last week, which the detainees claimed was the result of this kind of negligence.

Canadian Raymond Jackson told the INQUIRER that the foreign detainees all decided to go on hunger strike after Indian Satnam Singh died reportedly of heart complications on Aug. 9.

"Singh died last week because officials of the Bureau of Immigration denied him medical attention," Jackson said. "What happened to him might happen to any one of us, which is why we decided to start this hunger strike."

The doctor assigned to the detention center, Dr. Elsie Lobrin, denied the detainees were not being given proper medical care. Lobrin also said she had been updated on the Singh case and that she recommended his transfer to a hospital.

Jackson said since the death of Singh, the doctor has been seen everyday at the detention center.

"Since the case has been made public, the doctor is here everyday. Before that, we hardly ever saw her. We don't think she is qualified to attend to us, plain and simple," Jackson said.

Sought for comment, Dr. Lobrin said: "Some of the detainees are attacking me because the easiest way out for them is for me to recommend their confinement or checkup in a hospital outside. But I cannot do that without a justifiable medical reason."

The detainees, Jackson said, have been suffering from an assortment of respiratory and heart diseases.

Aside from the lack of medical attention, the detainees are also protesting their denial of due process, their detention without bail, the alleged corruption and extortion activities of BI officials and the use of discretionary powers of the BI Commissioner in relation to their cases.

The detainees earlier protested that they have been illegally arrested and detained and that their cases have not been acted upon by the BI while they languish in jail.

"We will continue with our protest until media is allowed inside so we can air our grievances and until President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo takes action on our cases," Jackson said.

The Canadian added they have taken their grievances to immigration officials but they have not acted on them.

Until their demands are met, the detainees, Jackson said, will take only water or fluids. "There is nothing violent at all with our protests. This is just a peaceful way to make our grievances public."

Thou shalt not sleep with neighbor's mate

AN OVERSEAS Filipino Worker nearly lost his life yesterday for allegedly sleeping with the female live-in partner of his attacker in Caloocan.

Edrodin Apostol, 39, suffered stab wounds on the face, chest, and body, police said.

He is confined at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

Suspect Robert Raymundo, 31, stabbed Apostol when he caught him sleeping with his common-law wife inside their house on Dalisay Street, Maypajo, Caloocan.

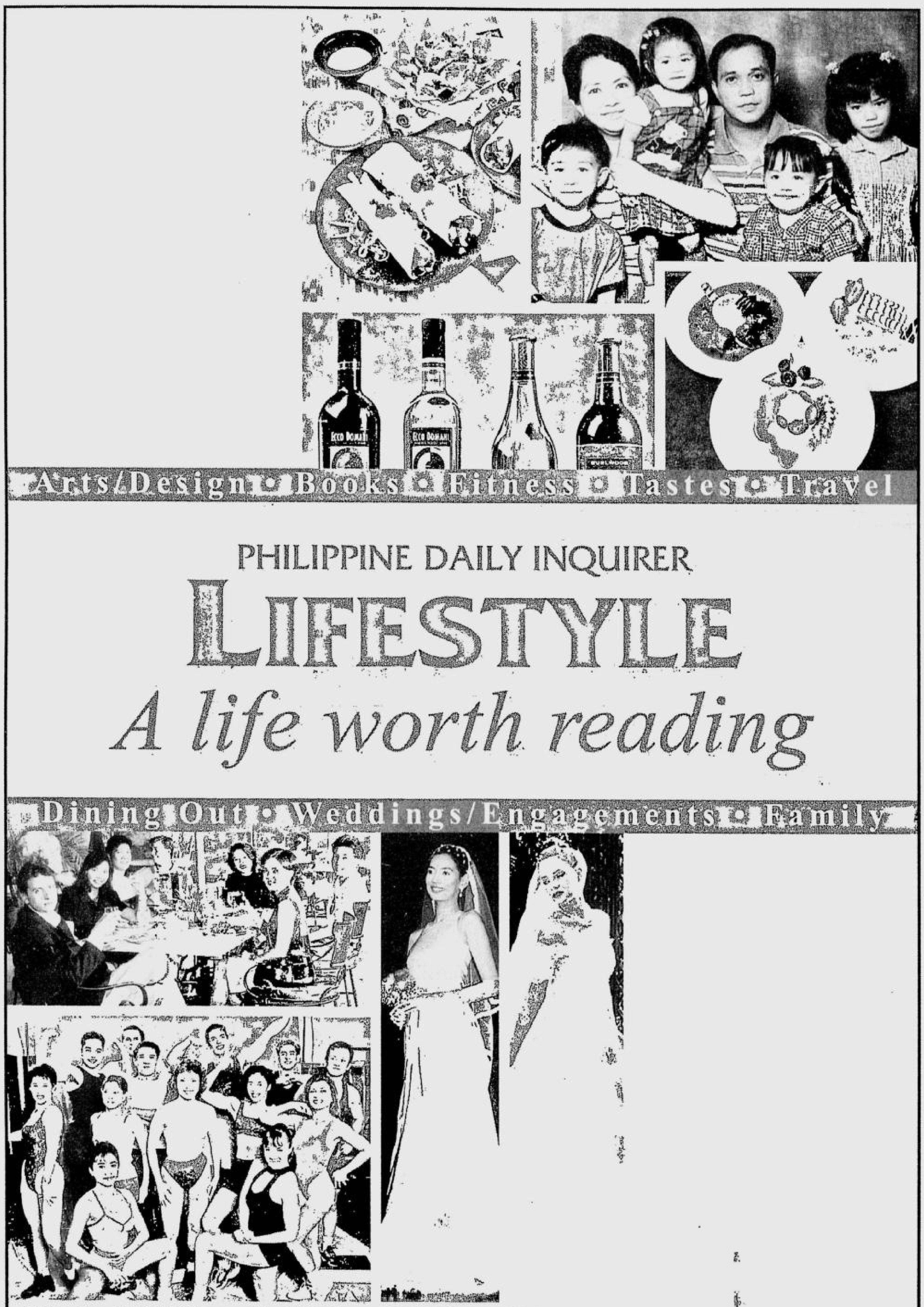
The suspect had just arrived home about 2:30 a.m. when he saw Apostol, who was half-naked, sleeping beside his live-in partner, investigation showed.

Raymundo immediately took a knife and repeatedly stabbed the victim, police said.

PO3 Renato Pongco and PO2 Edwar Cleofas of the Caloocan Mobile Patrol Division arrested the suspect.

Raymundo is facing frustrated homicide charges before the city prosecutor's office.

Christian V. Esguerra



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METROBRIEFS

Hunt on for former Mandaluyong staffer

POLICE are looking for former Mandaluyong City Hall employee Danilo Sta. Teresa, 49, of San Jose Street, Barangay Hulo, Mandaluyong City, for the death of tricycle driver Raymundo Viduya, 28. Investigator PO3 Guillermo Boy said Sta. Teresa shot dead Viduya about 10:30 p.m. on Tuesday in front of the victim's house on Coronado Street. A drunken Sta. Teresa allegedly approached Viduya and, for no apparent reason, slapped and kicked him, police said. Witnesses told police Sta. Teresa then drew his handgun and shot Viduya twice in the head and stomach. Viduya died on the way to the Mandaluyong City Medical Center. *Agnes Donato*

Cop nabbed for shabu

PARAÑAQUE police arrested on Tuesday policeman Joselito Villaruz, 37, of Phildera 2, Road 4, Mia in Pasay City, and Gerry Fernandez, 32, an electrician and a resident of 567 Quirino Ave., Barangay Tambo, Parañaque for alleged possession of shabu. Villaruz is said to be a member of the Philippine National Police assigned with the Headquarters Support Services Group, a holding office for policemen on "floating" status. Fernandez claimed he was reporter for radio station dwIZ and Headlines newspaper, police said. The suspects were arrested along Quirino Avenue in Barangay Tambo, Parañaque about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday after members of the Parañaque DEU spotted the two acting suspiciously. Police found on them several sachets of shabu after they were frisked. Thelma Camata of dwIZ denied Fernandez was an employee of the station. The suspects who are now detained at the Parañaque police station face charges of violation of RA 6425, or the Dangerous Drugs Act, before Parañaque City courts. *Alcuin Papa*

Printing manager robbed

FIVE men armed with knives and handguns on Tuesday broke into the house of printing press manager Jaime U. Tan, 46, of 87 Malakas St., Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City, and robbed him of about P620,000 worth of jewelry, P80,000 in cash, three cellular phones, and a Canon camera, said investigator PO2 Joseph Dino of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

He said the robbers entered Tan's house through the main gate about 6:30 a.m. Tuesday, rounded up members of his household and hogtied them while they ransacked the house. Tan told police the robbers even ordered his wife to open their vault where cash and jewelry were kept.

Philip C. Tubeza

2 QC stores robbed

BYSTANDER Ronald M. Gilli, 33, of 54 Banahaw Street in Cubao, Quezon City, was shot and injured when about 20 armed men simultaneously robbed the JC Plaza Supermarket and Annalyn Department Store at the corner of T. Gener and K-15th streets in Kamuning, Quezon City on Tuesday. SPO4 Edmund Senido of the Kamuning police station said a stray bullet hit Gilli when the robbers fired their guns in the air during their escape on board four vehicles—a maroon Mitsubishi Pajero (UUH-642), a green Hi-Ace (UGK-315), a maroon Toyota Rev-O (UGK-115) and a jeep with no plate numbers. The suspects managed to take only P15,000 from the two stores during the 10-minute robbery, but they also took three .38 revolvers from the security guards of the two stores, police said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Carmelite worker missing

BURABOD

JOSE Burabod, 86, who has served in the Carmelite Monastery within the compound of the Immaculate Concepcion Seminary in Guiguinto, Bulacan since 1971, has been missing since Aug. 2. Burabod, senile, was last seen bidding goodbye to those who were playing at the basketball court of the Immaculate Conception Major Seminary. Those who saw him, including the security guard of the seminary, thought he was just going to the store to buy something. But he never returned. Nuns expressed fears that his obsession of going to America might have brought him away from his surroundings. He was wearing a *maong* jumper and long pants. He had in his pocket approximately P1,000. Information on the missing person may be relayed to the following numbers: PLDT: 044-794-1624; DIGITEL: 044-690-1053.

2 Chinese fall; 2 kilos of shabu seized

By Jerome Aning

MANILA policemen seized two kilos of shabu worth P4 million and arrested two Chinese believed to be members of a Hong Kong drug triad during a sting operation at the Rizal Park before dawn yesterday.

Western Police District director Senior Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. identified the suspects as Eli Co Yan, 24, married, and Jacky Ang Lee, 25, single. The two were presented to Mayor Lito Atienza and mediamen at City Hall later in the morning.

The two suspects, Pasinos said, were collared after handing a kilo of shabu to an undercover operative of the WPD-district intelligence and investigation division, who was disguised as a buyer.

Yan, a sales representative, and Lee, a tourist, arrived in front of the Quirino Grandstand on the western part of the Rizal Park around 4 a.m. on board a Honda Civic (UTJ-153).

After the bust, other DIID operatives who had posted themselves clandestinely in the grandstand searched the suspects' vehicle and found another kilo of shabu.

Pasinos said the suspects, who knew a little English and do not know how to speak in Tagalog, told during interrogation that they are natives of Hokkien, China, and live in different houses along Fatima Street in Valenzuela City.

The WPD has coordinated with the Bureau of Immigration to determine how the suspects managed to enter the country.

For his part, Atienza congratulated the policemen and said that the bust is "a major gain in our campaign against these "merchants of death."

Pasinos said they have been monitoring the activities of the two suspected drug traffickers for several weeks. A DIID operative was able to contact the suspects and negotiated a deal for P2 million worth of shabu.

Lacson, prince of darkness

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

TO THE Chinese-Filipinos, the *Chinoys*, among us, here's an unsolicited advice: Stop looking up to Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson as your knight in shining armor because he was not. He was a black knight, a prince of darkness.

To quote Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Lacson was "Dracula guarding the blood bank."

Matagal kayong niloko ni Lacson *at* Erap, *mga pare at mare.*

***

Deposed President Erap, Ping Lacson and Charlie "Atong" Ang were the ones behind most of the kidnappings in Metro Manila, according to somebody who used to be very close to them.

The source is now being protected by the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp). He will come out to testify against the three evil men at a Senate inquiry—if ever there is any—or in court.

Our source was very, very close to Erap. Let's call him "Mr. Goodman" for now.

***

Mr. Goodman said that from 1996 till April of 1998, a month before the presidential election, the Erap-Ping-Atong tandem kidnapped at least three *Chinoys* a week.

The ransom paid for each kidnap victim was P100 million, said Mr. Goodman.

The three evil men used members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang as their "soldiers."

***

Atong Ang, said Mr. Goodman, hit upon the idea of kidnapping rich *Chinoys* because they negotiated with the kidnappers and did not report to the police.

Part of the big amount earned from the kidnappings-for-ransom went to Erap's presidential campaign kitty. The rest, said Mr. Goodman, was divided among the three, according to Mr. Goodman.

"That's why they (Erap and Lacson) have very large dollar deposits in foreign banks," the source said.

***

"The real leaders of the Kuratong Baleleng were Erap, Ping and Atong," said Mr. Goodman in thick, singsong accent.

The three started to engage in kidnapping for ransom after the massacre of 11 Kuratong Baleleng members in 1995. Renato Parohinog, Kuratong chieftain, sent a team of assassins to Manila to get Erap and Ping to avenge the massacre of his men.

Fearful for their lives, Erap and Ping sent Atong Ang to smoke the peace pipe with Parohinog. Ang convinced the gangster to form an alliance with the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission (PACC) which was headed by Erap as chair. Lacson was chief of the PACC's arm, Task Force Habagat.

***

Before the massacre of the "Kuratong 11," the gang was only involved in bank robbery, Mr. Goodman said.

He said that the Erap-Ping-Atong tandem taught the gang to engage in kidnapping for ransom.

Here's how the trio did it:

Atong Ang owned a security agency which offered its services to wealthy Chinese businessmen. Instead of hiring regular security guards, Ang, Mr. Goodman said, employed members of the Kuratong Baleleng.

***Chinoy* businessmen hired Atong's security guards because they wanted to get close to Vice President Erap who they believed would become president. Atong was their bridge to Erap.**

***

Atong "Kuratong" guards were the Trojan horses of the wealthy businessmen. The guards informed Atong Ang what time their employers left the house or office, what cars they were using and the plate numbers of their cars.

Invariably, the families of the kidnap victims would approach Atong Ang for help. They would ask him to take them to Erap because people were made to believe that the PACC was their protector against kidnappers.

Ang would tell the family of a kidnap victim to negotiate with the kidnappers first before reporting the kidnapping to the PACC.

***

"We have no guarantee your (father, mother, daughter, son, sister, brother) would not be hurt during the rescue operation," Atong Ang would invariably tell the victim victim's relatives.

So, the relatives would agree to pay the ransom, Mr. Goodman said.

That's how the kidnappings-for-ransom of rich Chinese ended when Atong Ang handled them, according to Mr. Goodman.

***

Our source said the Erap-Ping-Atong tandem earned so much out of the nefarious trade they decided to quit a month before the 1998 election.

"*Ayaw na ni* Ping Lacson. *Itigil na muna natin dahil malapit na ang eleksyon,*" Mr. Goodman said he overheard Atong tell somebody over the phone.

Mr. Goodman's story was confirmed by another source also very close to Erap. This source said Erap told him that they would quit kidnapping for ransom after he won the election.

"But Erap didn't fulfill his promise. Kidnappings still took place when he was already president," the other source said.

'I was hired . . .

(From page A17)

Recto, Atienza added.

The Lipa City Mayor's office learned of the threat on the couple's lives four weeks ago, but it was only reported to the police a week later by one of the mayor's aides, Atienza said.

But members of a CIDG team tasked to track down the killers have reported to their superiors that they lost the suspects' trail last week.

Atienza said the CIDG was given two weeks to catch the hitmen.

The Lipa police chief said they are eyeing two groups that might have a hand in the assassination plot: the Hong Kong Triad and a millionaire politician whom the Rectos defeated in the May 14 polls.

On April 30, local police raided a drug laboratory supposedly run by the Hong Kong Triad in Barangay Sto Ni□o, Lipa City. Police seized a ton of shabu worth P3 billion.

At least 10 Chinese were arrested in the raid, including a certain Ben Marcelo who claimed to be a friend of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Later, they were charged before the Lipa City Prosecutor's Office.

The Inquirer learned that weeks after their arrest, the suspects were transferred from the Lipa City Jail to a detention cell in Camp Crame for a still unknown reason.

Custody of the shabu seized from the suspects was also transferred from the Batangas Provincial Police Office to the PNP Headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Lipa City Hall sources revealed that an influential provincial official has been protecting the illegal drug syndicate.

The politician blamed the Rectos for the raid on the shabu laboratory, which cut the Hong Kong Triad's drug supply to the Southern Tagalog Region.

Atienza also withheld the name of the confessed assassin-a member of a group of hired killers operating in Quezon, Laguna, and Batangas-for fear of reprisal from his comrades.

Ironically, the would-be assassin himself told police he is an avid Vilmanian and may not bring himself to kill the lady mayor, Atienza claimed.

The suspect said he does not know who contacted his group nor the motive for the assassination.

He said he was only summoned by a fellow gang member who received the contract for the assassination.

The suspect said he spent sleepless nights thinking of the job before he decided to reveal the plot to Atienza.

He said he sent a letter to Atienza days before their meeting, revealing the plan and the modus operandi of the assassination group.

Atienza said this allowed the police to keep track of the assassin's whereabouts.

The other day, police were able to convince the suspect to come out in the open.

On Monday, city administrator Fr. Levi Dimaunahan told Lipa residents that there is a threat to their mayor's life and that she could not report to the office yet.

"But you cannot stop the likes of Mayor Vi from visiting the barangays and helping the Lipe□os," Atienza said. "That's why we have to tighten the security around her."

INVESTIGATE SENATOR PING LACSON IMMEDIATELY

Col. Victor N. Corpus, Head of the ISAFP, has submitted to the President the report of an investigative team that uncovered multi-million dollar accounts of Senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson in various banks in Hong Kong, Canada and the U.S. The disclosure involves two issues: money laundering and narco-politics. The latter being a serious national security issue, is a compelling reason to immediately conduct an investigation into this matter in the highest levels of government.

We therefore urge that the Senate immediately convene the Blue Ribbon Committee and conduct a full-blown investigation on these very serious charges against Sen. Lacson. While Col. Corpus has been holding his punches, awaiting the proper forum to present his evidence and witnesses, Sen. Lacson has been going to town with blanket denials, name calling, character assassination, misleading half truths, etc. Meanwhile the bickering and politicking of the opposition in the Senate is causing a long delay in the investigation by the Blue Ribbon Committee of this issue, giving undue advantage to Sen. Lacson in the media war while depriving the Filipino people of their right to know the truth.

We therefore appeal to the Senate to make the welfare of the nation a top priority. We urge you to immediately convene the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee and get to the bottom of this very serious threat to our national security.

Let the truth be known. Investigate Senator Ping Lacson without fear or favor.

EVELYN LAO KILAYKO
Concerned Women of the Philippines

MIGUEL PEREZ-RUBIO
Kossyensyang Pilipino

ANGELINA ABELLA
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4) To make a free call, the customer surrenders the coupon to the RCPI Customer Service Representative who then dials the desired number for the customer and directs him to the available phone booth to take the call.

5) Each coupon can be used up to the maximum limit of 3 minutes. If after redeeming the coupon, the customer's call is less than 3 minutes, it is understood that all the remaining minutes for that coupon are forfeited. If it exceeds the free 3-minute call, the excess minutes shall be paid by the redeeming customer based on the prevailing International or Domestic call rates

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7) This FREE LONG DISTANCE CALL promotion is effective from August 01, 2001 up to the end of business hours on December 28, 2001

8) This sales promotion is only valid for Western Union transactions that are sent or received at all participating RCPI branches and does not apply to transactions sent or received in other Western Union agents' outlets.

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PUREZA

Clamor grows for police control by local execs

By Nelson F. Flores

THE NATIONAL Police Commission is studying the possibility of handing over police control to local government executives.

Rogelio Pureza, Napolcom vice chair and executive officer, revealed this on Tuesday after he noted that there was a mounting clamor for city and municipal mayors to acquire control and supervision over local police units.

He said the Napolcom would determine whether the proposed devolution of police control to local government units is lawful.

Pureza, a retired police director, said there is a possibility that the PNP could relinquish to local executives operational control over police personnel, but it could not hand over administrative management without the corresponding constitutional amendment.

He said the law creating the Philippine National Police clearly provides that the "PNP is national in scope and civilian in character."

"We have to study the matter further to determine whether it would be permissible under the current legal setup to devolve police control to local executives," Pureza said.

Earlier, Tagaytay City Mayor Francis Tolentino, the newly elected president of the League of City Mayors, asked Congress to pass a law that would allow local executives to have control and supervision over the police.

'Insignificant,' JV says of Abalos offer to help

By Agnes Donato

ALTHOUGH Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. paid a courtesy visit to the residence of San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, and offered a temporary dump for his town's garbage, the ex-President's son still had nothing but strong words for the MMDA chief.

The son of deposed President Joseph Estrada said he would stand by his decision to support the abolition of the MMDA for its continuing failure to provide a permanent solution to Metro Manila's garbage problem.

Ejercito on Tuesday described as "insignificant" the help offered by Abalos to solve San Juan's garbage problem.

Abalos on Thursday night went to the home of Ejercito in San Juan to tell the young mayor that the municipality could use the two transfer stations in Las Piñas and Bacoor, Cavite as garbage dump.

EJERCITO

ABALOS

But Ejercito complained that the 10 trucks of garbage, which the town was allowed to dump at the transfer stations, were "not enough."

"We still have a backlog because we were not able to dispose of garbage for about a week," Ejercito said.

"We also learned that the garbage collectors had to wait for 17 to 24 hours before they could unload the trash. By that time, more garbage had already accumulated."

He said he would attend the meetings of the Metro Mayors Council "on a case-to-case basis."

"I would attend meetings depending on the necessity of my presence," Ejercito said, in response to an earlier call made by Abalos for him to attend the mayors meetings so he would be informed about the projects and programs of the MMDA.

"If it's not very necessary for me to be physically present, then I would just probably send a representative," Ejercito added. "There are too many problems in San Juan that I have to prioritize."

It was learned that Ejercito's mother, former starlet Guia Gomez, attended a meeting of the spouses of Metro Manila mayors last Monday.

Please do not use my son, says cadet's dad

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOR THE first time since the uproar started over the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), the father of slain ROTC cadet and UST engineering student Mark Welson Chua has distanced himself from militant student groups supposedly clamoring for justice for the victim and calling for the abolition of the ROTC.

On Tuesday, Welson Chua, Mark's father, criticized the groups for using his son's death for their "selfish political ends."

"Don't use my son, please," Chua told the militant student groups, referring to their call for the abolition of the military training program.

"My son died because he loved the ROTC institution so much," Chua said. "Don't victimize him again by using his death as part of your grand political scheme."

He said the groups should instead focus on bringing to justice alleged soldiers who are suspected of abducting and killing his son last March.

"Make your call for justice for my son louder," Chua told the student groups. "Then call for the reformation of the institution, not for its abolition."

Mark was 19 when he went missing after he exposed alleged anomalies in his school's ROTC program. His exposé led to the relief of Commandant Army Maj. Demy Tejares.

Mark's body was later fished out of the Pasig River.

The killing triggered a nationwide demand from militant student groups for the abolition of the student military training program.

But Chua believed militant student groups have defeated his son's cause with their calls.

"Mark died for the ROTC because he wanted to reform it so badly," he said. "He never wanted to abolish it. His sense of idealism should enlighten these selfish groups."

Two groups are currently leading the anti-ROTC drive nationwide — Abolish!, a network of militant student organizations, and the Movement for the Advancement of Student Power.

Women gain ground lobbying for anti-abuse bill

By Philip C. Tubeza

ABUSIVE partners, watch out!

Women's groups, led by Sibol (Sama-samang Inisyatiba ng Kababaihan sa Pagbabago ng Batas at Lipunan), are gaining ground in lobbying for the Anti-AWIR (Anti-Abuse of Women in Intimate Relationships) bill of Rep. Bellaflor J. Angara-Castillo.

On Tuesday, Sibol held a forum with women advocates and legislators for Angara-Castillo's House Bill No. 35, which aims to penalize men or women who psychologically or physically harm a woman with whom they have or had an "intimate relationship."

Lawyer Evalyn Ursua, Women's Legal Bureau consultant, said the bill is needed because there is still no specific law that appropriately addresses violence against women in intimate relationships.

The proposed law also recognizes that violence against women in intimate relationships is "gender-based" or that women are abused because they are women. So it has become a "human rights issue," Ursua said.

Sibol said husbands and partners were the most common abusers of women (52 percent) in 1,000 cases of family violence studied by the University of the Philippines Center for Women Studies in 1996.

The Women's Crisis Center, a Quezon City-based NGO, reported that between 1989 and 1996, 44.7 percent of the 1,295 victims it helped claimed to be victims of battery by their husbands or partners.

A random survey of three urban poor communities in Metro Manila also showed that their partners battered 11 in 12 women at least once.

Under the bill, the specific acts of abuse that will be considered criminal include "attempting or threatening" to cause a woman physical harm, controlling her movement, forcing her to have sex, and "causing mental or emotional anguish, public humiliation" through repeated verbal or physical abuse.

Stalkers, or those who engage "in purposeful, knowing or reckless conduct" that "alarms or causes distress to a woman and serves no legitimate purpose, such as following the woman about in public places or destroying her property, animals and pets," would also be punished.

Ursua said they had a case where a stalker skinned all the woman victim's chickens just to threaten her.

Then there is emotional blackmail. The proposed bill also penalizes those who threaten to inflict physical harm on themselves, and those who really do so, just so he or she could control a woman's actions.

For relief, abused married housewives and girls being stalked by exboyfriends could ask their barangay or the courts for protection orders to prevent further abuse.

If the victims are really frightened of their partners, their friends or a social worker could petition for a protection order.

Ursua said a protection order would, among others, prohibit the respondent from harassing, telephoning, annoying, or even texting the complainant.

The protection order could also be used to kick out of the house the abusive partner. But he would be allowed to get his things from the house only if a policeman is with him, Ursua said.

For an abusive partner who happens to be a policeman, a protection order would mean that the policeman would have to surrender his service firearm to his superior, Ursua said.

A barangay protection order (BPO) could be issued without a hearing and is effective for 15 days, according to Ursua. She said the barangay chair would then immediately refer the case to the Pangkat ng Tagapagsundo.

If the couple do not reconcile, then the victim could ask the courts for a temporary protection order (TPO) as a prelude to a permanent protection order (PPO).

Yakuza suspected in ambush-killing of real estate man

POLICE on Tuesday said the dreaded Yakuza could be involved in the ambush killing of a real estate broker last Monday.

Las Piñas City police chief Supt. Perpetuo Sanson said the result of the initial investigation of the killing of Rodrigo del Rosario showed that a Japanese businessman and suspected Yakuza member could be behind the killing.

Del Rosario's sister-in-law Peraly Deloterio was also seriously injured in the ambush.

Sanson said the Japanese businessman apparently resented the help Del Rosario gave his estranged wife, which caused the Japanese to lose all his real property. Sanson refused to elaborate but said that an investigation is still going on.

Del Rosario and Deloterio, both of 15 Phantom St., Airmen Village in Pulang Lupa, Las Piñas City, were on board a black Mitsubishi Adventure van when two gunmen on board a motorcycle ambushed them on Arabejo Street in Gatchalian Subdivision in Barangay Manuyo II about 6 a.m. Monday.

Del Rosario was pronounced dead on arrival at the Olivares General Hospital in Parañaque City from several gunshot wounds.

Deloterio, who suffered several gunshot wounds, was in serious condition in the same hospital. *Nelson F. Flores*

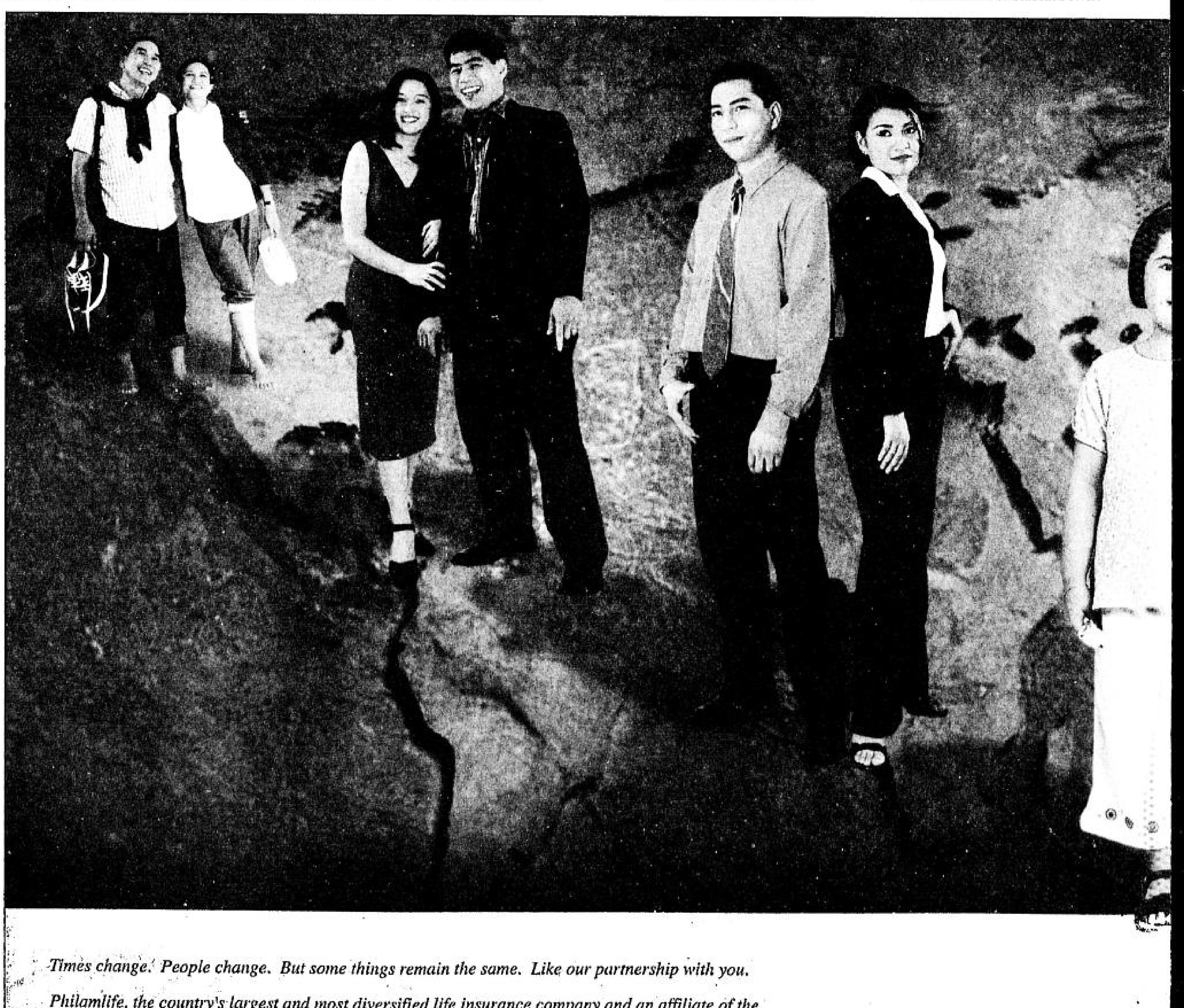
Women's cancer specialists to hold convention

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco and International Gynecologic Society president Sergio Pecorelli will be the principal speakers in the Aug. 23-24 convention of the Society of Gynecologic Oncologists of the Philippines (SGOP) at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

The convention's theme is "Crossing the Bridge to the New Millennium." It also marks the SGOP's 18th anniversary and is open to all physicians.

Lectures at the convention include "Survival Trends in Gynecologic Cancer," "Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy and Interval Debulking of Non-resectable Ovarian Malignancy" by Pecorelli, "Alternative Screening Procedures for Cancer of the Cervic," "Current Status of HPV Typing in Cervical Cancer Screening," "Borderline Ovarian Tumors: What's New?," "Malignant Germ Cell Tumors of the Ovary: Management and Survival," "Management of Uterine Sarcomas," "Psychosexual Rehabilitation of Gynecologic Cancer Patients," "End of Life Care for Gynecologic Cancer Patients," and "HRT and Gynecologic Cancer."

Inquiries on registration and other details may be addressed to the University of the Philippines – Philippine General Hospital at telephone numbers 524-1098 and 524-5741 or at *pghobgyn@pworld.net.ph.*



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Turkish drug convict falls

By Michael Lim Ubac

A FUGITIVE Turk who has been convicted of drug trafficking fell in the hands of the National Bureau of Investigation when she and her husband allegedly tried to cheat a local handicraft dealer in Cainta, Rizal last week.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco identified the couple as Liman Ercan, 45, and her husband Mehmet Ercan, 43, both of Multinational Village, Parañaque City.

Wycoco said a Pasay court sentenced Liman and fellow Turk Najep Toorkel to a maximum of 10 years imprisonment for violating Republic Act No. 6425, or the Dangerous Drugs Act.

The two were tried in absentia after they jumped bail. Authorities had been looking for them ever since, Wycoco said.

"Liman is presently detained at the NBI jail pending the issuance of a commitment order by the court transferring her to the Correctional Institute for Women," Wycoco said. "Her four other companions were released after they presented proper documents."

NBI Anti-Graft division chief Justo Yap said the Ercan couple tried to shortchange handicraft storeowner Olga L. Monti on July 30.

"The couple pretended to order a large quantity of handicraft products from (Monti's) store," Yap said.

Yap said Monti received payment in dollars. She gave the change to Leman in pesos.

"Later, Leman returned the change, saying she had decided not to buy the goods anymore," Yap said.

But when the couple left, Monti counted the money and was shocked to discover she had been shortchanged by about P70,000.

"Fortunately the security guard was able to jot down the plate number of the couple's car, which turned out to be a rented car," Yap said.

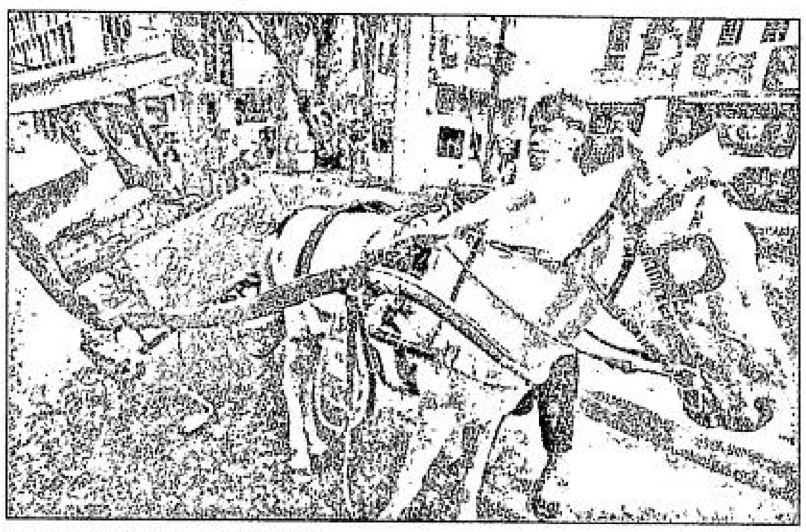
Monti asked the assistance of the NBI to track down the couple.

Early last week, NBI agents spotted the couple with four Turkish companions in a restaurant in Cubao, Quezon City. The agents took them all to NBI headquarters for questioning.

However, Monti agreed to enter into an amicable settlement with the couple, prompting the NBI to release the suspects.

But before they could get away, the NBI learned that a standing warrant had been issued against Liman.

Yap ordered his men to arrest Liman and the other Turks.



4 LEGS AND A WHEEL ERIK ARAZAS

An unidentified man fixes his horse-drawn rig after it lost a wheel along C. M. Recto Avenue in Manila.

Guard shoots self dead with 'sumpak'

By Philip C. Tubeza

A SECURITY guard of the Manila Seedling Foundation in Quezon City accidentally shot himself dead with a homemade shotgun (*sumpak*) Sunday.

Rodolfo M. Alejandro, 30, a stay-in guard at the Manila Seedling Foundation at the corner of Quezon Avenue and Edsa in Barangay Bagong Pag-Asa, did not make it to the hospital after he accidentally shot himself with the *sumpak*, said SPO1 Rafael De Peralta of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

The victim's neck and chest were riddled with the shrapnel pellets from the shotgun's bullet, De Peralta added.

He said the accident happened at 10:10 p.m. inside the Manila Seedling Foundation compound.

Witnesses told investigators they noticed that Alejandro was restless and drunk before they heard a gunshot shatter the nighttime quiet.

They said Alejandro went to the security guards' barracks and got his homemade shotgun, according to De Peralta.

Alejandro then walked toward the direction of the main gate. But before he could reach the gate, he lost his balance, the witnesses said.

They said Alejandro tried to break his fall by using his shotgun as support. The shotgun, however, went off and hit Alejandro in the chest and neck, De Peralta said.

The victim was brought to the East Avenue Medical Center but he was declared dead on arrival at 10:25 p.m., De Peralta said.

Police are still wondering why the victim, a certified security guard, had a *sumpak* for a firearm instead of a real shotgun, he added.

No water in Caloocan for 24 hours

RESIDENTS of A. Bonifacio, C-3 Road and Tagaytay Street in Barrio San Jose, and 8th Street, all in Caloocan City, will be waterless for 24 hours from 10 p.m. Thursday to 10 p.m. Friday.

Maynilad Water Services Inc., the West Zone concessionaire, said the water interruption is due to a vale insertion and reconnection of a 200-mm main line at the corner of C-R Road and A. Bonifacio Street.

For inquiries, the public may call the Maynilad Water hotline, 1626.

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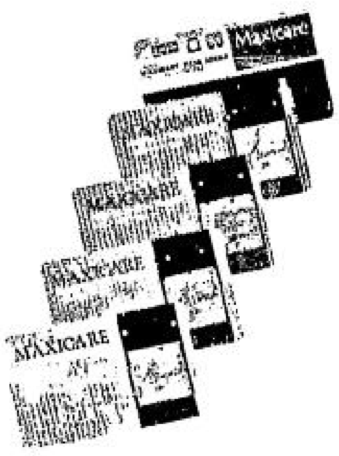

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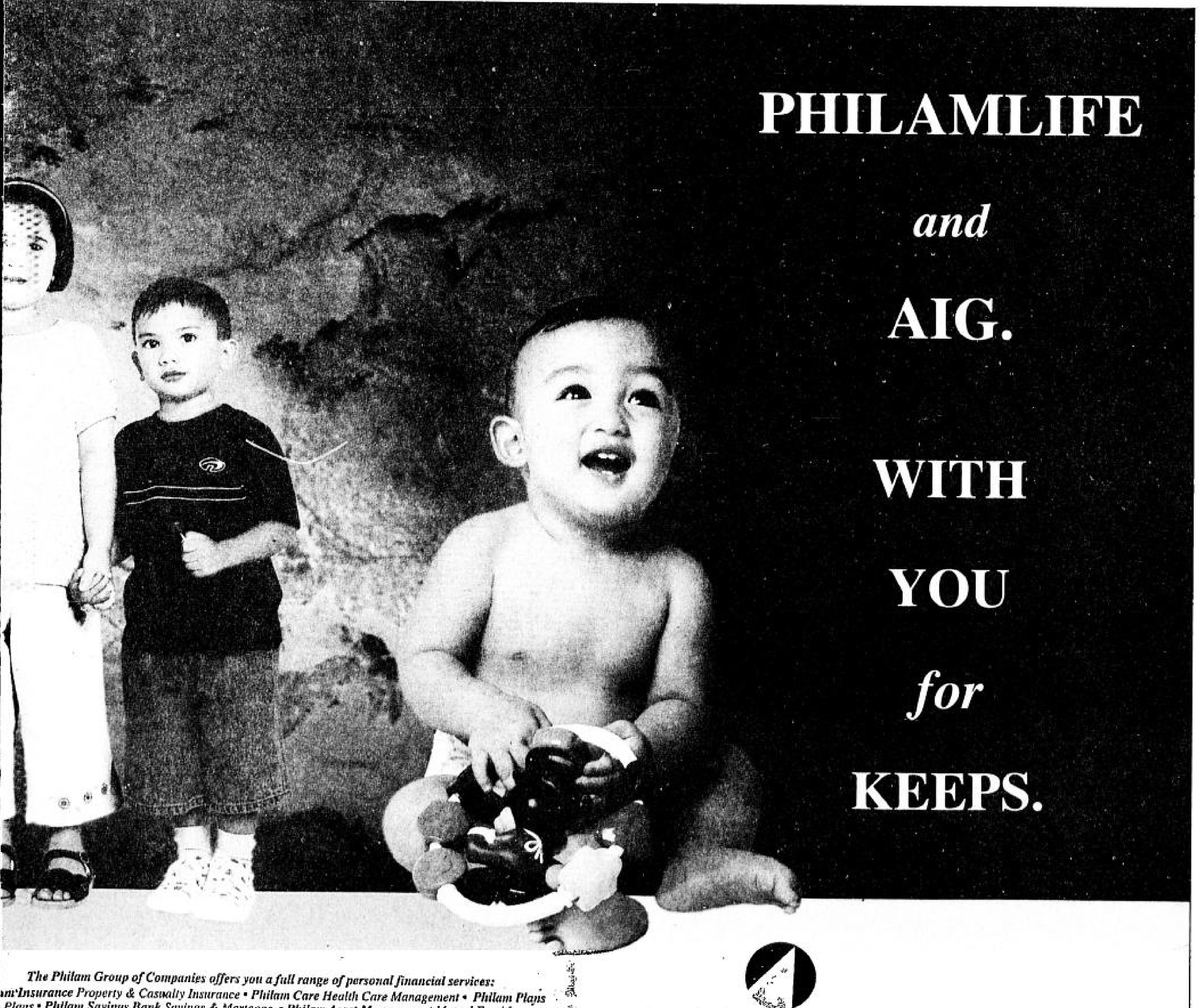

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2	COOL DUDES
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3	RED DIARIES
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7	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
8	THE ANIMAL
9	COOL DUDES
10	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

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3	STICKMEN
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	COOL DUDES
6	PLANET OF THE APES
7	THE ANIMAL

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2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	UNDER REGULAR CHECK UP
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8	VENUS

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4	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
5	VENUS
6	THE ANIMAL

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	VENUS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	THE ANIMAL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	STICKMEN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BALAHIBONG PUSA/ BODY TO BODY
ODEON	PLANET OF THE APES
ODEON-2	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
ROBEN	VENUS DIOSA NG KARAGATAN
TANDEM-1	TURN ON
TANDEM-2	PARU PARONG LIGAW
TIMES	TIGER/ VALENTINE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	COOL DUDES
QUEZON-1	VENUS DIOSA NG KARAGATAN
REMAR	PLANET OF THE APES
REMAR-2	VENUS DIOSA NG KARAGATAN
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-61 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-2	BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	RADYO
CINEMA-2	RED DIARIES
CINEMA-3	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-6	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-7	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-8	VENUS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	THE ANIMAL
CINEMA-12	SCREAM LAST FRIDAY THE 13TH
CINEMA-14	STICKMEN
CINEMA-15	COOL DUDES
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SCREAM
CINEMA-2	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-3	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-4	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-5	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-6	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	UOD SA LAMAN
CINEMA-2	WALANG LUPANG TATAPAKAN
CINEMA-4	ITAKWIL MAN AKO NG LANGIT

MTV video music awards

GET glued to your TV sets and watch the wildest, wackiest, musical award show in history, the 2001 MTV Video Music Awards, to be held at the New York City Metropolitan Opera House on Sept. 6.

Topping the list of nominees is Fatboy Slim with nine nominations.

Other top nominees are Christina Aguilera, Lil' Kim, Mya and Pink ("Moulin Rouge") for their music video for "Lady Marmalade," Missy Elliott for "Get Ur Freak On" and N'Sync for "Pop," each with six nominations.

Tied for five nominations are Eminem featuring Dido for his music video for "Stan," U2 for "Beautiful Day" and "Elevation Remix" and Destiny's Child for "Survivor."

To commemorate the highly anticipated show, MTV Philippines will host a pre-Video Music Awards party at 8:30 tonight at Suburbia Manila at 1718 M. Adriatico st., Malate, Manila.

Guests will be treated to performances by Southeast Asia Viewer's Choice nominees True Faith and Kyla.

Nescafé, Sanyo and Suzuki sponsor the 2001 MTV Video Music Awards.

Who says . . .

(From page A25)

Antoinette Taus gamely waved to the crowd when their names were mentioned. Perhaps Regine didn't want to steal the limelight from Freestyle. Regine is not stuck-up or anything like that. Maybe it was just one of those nights when she wanted to be left alone to enjoy the show. Being the center of attention can be taxing, too.

How will the sister tandem of **Janice** and **Gelli de Belen** fare against the "Talk TV" group of **Tin-tin, Julius, Ryan** and **Janet**). Their new talk show on GMA 7 will premier on Monday and it will be a head-on collision with ABS-CBN's "Talk TV." Will Janice and Gelli have rapport onscreen? They are both talkers, though Janice tends to be profound most of the time while Gelli is more of the freewheeling type. Heard that "Talk TV" is cooking up a lot of surprises that will surely alarm any potential rival. Let's see who will out-talk who?

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

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ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

'Prestige' drama showcase

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR many years, the anthology drama show, "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" has set the benchmark for all ABS-CBN drama programs. It has attained its premiere position not just because it is hosted by the ABS-CBN executive **Charo Santos-Concio**, but also due to its unique format: it dramatize striking personal experiences sent in by viewers.

Of course, viewers aren't sure how much the stories have been embellished "for dramatic effect," or whether some of the plots have been concocted by the show's writers. Still, "Maala-ala Mo Kaya" has kept its special place in the hearts of viewers because they sense that extra care and more than the usual production values have been lavished on Channel 2's "prestige" drama showcase.

That's why we join others in cheering the show on its 10th anniversary, and on Aug. 9, we sampled one of the dramas lined up for the program's month-long special offerings this month.

The drama, about the imminent birth of a baby with a fatal physical condition, was made even more special by the fact that **Christopher de Leon** and **Sandy Andolong** were cast in the demanding roles of the unfortunate baby's parents.

The episode started off well, with the problem being presented in a clear and moving way: ultrasound tests show that the fetus in Sandy's womb is practically without a skull, a rare condition afflicting only one is a million babies.

All such babies don't survive for more than two days, so Christopher's character can't be faulted for suggesting that the fetus be aborted, before they can get emotionally attached to it, and thus suffer more when it dies, practically right after it's born.

But, being a mother, Sandy can't be so "practical," She resists the abortion procedure for the longest time, hoping for a miracle. And, even when the miracle doesn't happen, she's still happy that she's held on till the end, because at least the family has been given a chance to touch and say goodbye to its youngest member.

This is potent material for a family drama, and the program is generally able to develop it in a productive, insightful way that invites viewers to explore their own feelings about life, death, love, and God's hand in the affairs of men.

This organic development shows Christopher losing his faith in God, the family starting to break apart due to its stressful problem, the couple's daughter feeling betrayed when she learns that her baby brother won't be around for long, etc.

On point of contrast, **Inez Veneracion** plays a teacher who has a hard time carrying her babies to term, yet remains upbeat about the joys of motherhood. The twist here is that the teacher has another miscarriage and finally loses heart, and it's her young pupil's turn to try to boost her spirits.

So far, so dramatically productive. After a while, however, the storytelling turns too unrelievedly weepy for comfort, so some parts of the episode are more bathetic than pathetic.

But the show recovers well with its memorable finale, when the family says goodbye to the newly born infant. This scene is painful but cathartic, and gives the episode a rinsingly luminous ending.

On point of performance, it's Sandy Andolong who turns in the most sensitive and emotionally judicious performance. She really should act more often.

For his part, Christopher is able to tone down some of the thespic mannerisms that have compromised a number of his TV-film performances of late. And he does particularly well in the short and silent scene where he decides to resume praying to the God he's accused of blithe cruelty in a previous, high-strung sequence.

Kudos also to the young actress who plays the couple's sensitive and loving daughter, and to Inez Veneracion, who has successfully transformed herself from bold star to competent actress.

Who says there's rivalry between Aiza and Matet?

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

NOT too long ago, **Matet de Leon** and **Aiza Seguerra** were rivals as child stars.

We all saw them grow up. Kids in show biz usually mature faster but they miss out on a lot. They don't get to fully enjoy their childhood. That's the price they pay for the life they choose, or, in some cases, the life their stage mothers/fathers choose for them.

I recently chanced upon Matet and asked her, "When will you make an album like Aiza's? Wouldn't it be exciting to relive your rivalry again?"

Matet smiled. "I'm really happy for Aiza, I mean it. I love her songs. In fact I always sing them. I leave the singing to her. I'd rather concentrate on my acting." Matet seemed to be having a blast so I didn't want to spoil her night by asking her about the controversial appearance of her real mom.

Fashion dance party

I HAVE long been a "Cinderella-holic." Over and beyond the cool clothes and stuff they sell, it's the real friendship I've formed with **Richie-Coronel Santos**, **Danny** and **Joey Coronel** and the rest of the Cinderella clan that I really value.

On Sat. Aug 18, don't miss the most spectacular international fashion dance party of the year. U2 by Cinderella presents GodsKitchen (UK) Global Dance World Tour at the Glorietta Activity Center, starting at 10 p.m. See you there!

Just asking

FRIENDS who watched Freestyle's concert on Friday at the Big Dome wonder why **Regine Velasquez** seemed stoic when Freestyle acknowledged her presence. Other stars in the audience, like **Dina Bonnevie**, **Dingdong Dantes** and

WHO/ A24

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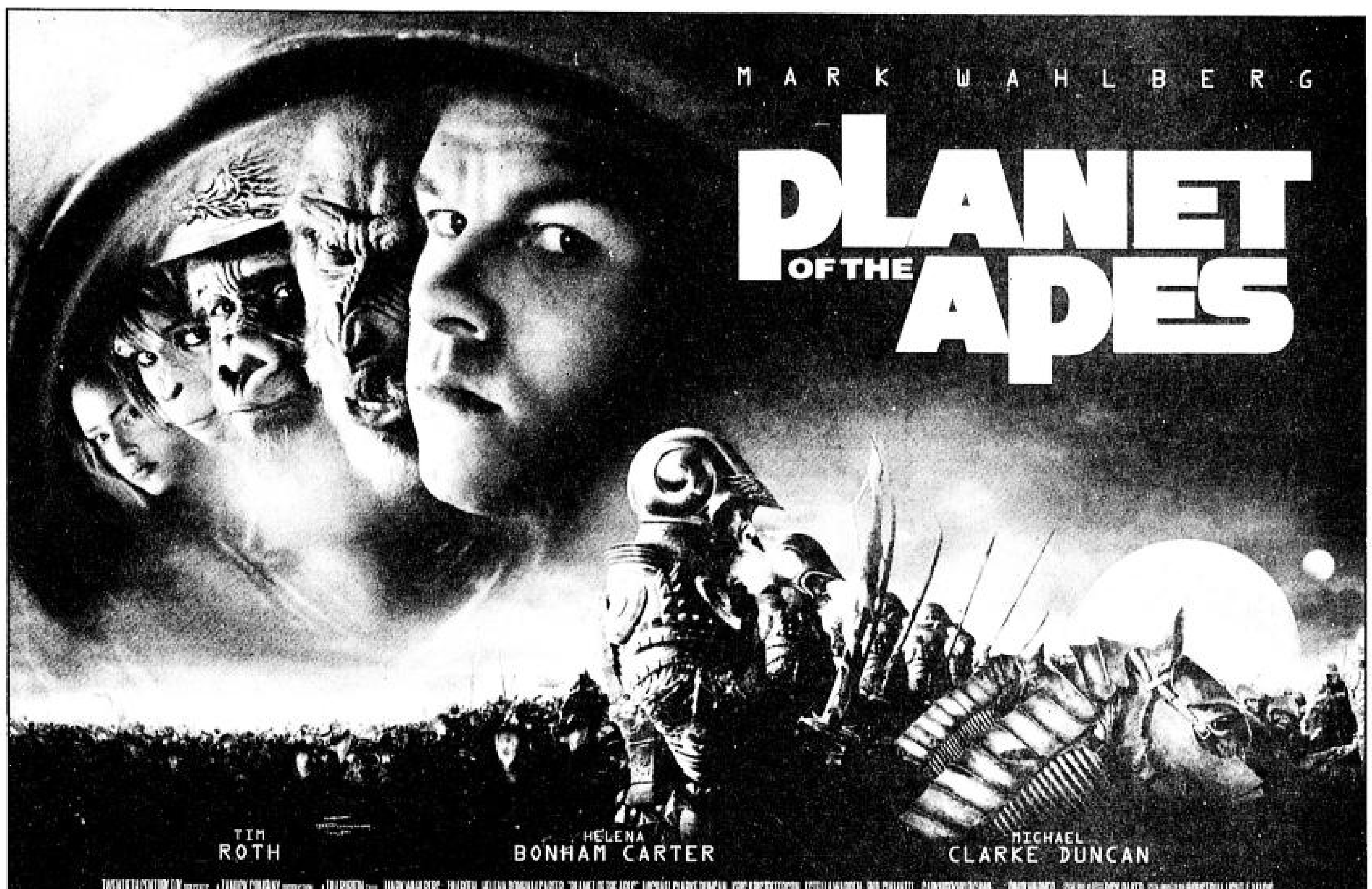

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PLANET OF THE APES - P 13 11:40, 2:05, 4:30, 6:55, 9:20	PLANET OF THE APES - P 13 11:00, 1:25, 3:50, 6:15, 8:40	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY - P 13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

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Budget gap below target; peso rallies anew

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday said its budget deficit in the first seven months of the year reached P82.59 billion, 13 percent below its target of P93.59 billion for the period.

The official budget deficit target for this year is P145 billion against the P136.11-billion deficit posted in 2000.

This developed as the peso continued to strengthen against the dollar, hitting an intraday high of 50.60 to $1 before closing at 50.95 to the dollar from Tuesday's close of 51.175. Trading ranged between 51.05 and 50.60 to the greenback.

The local currency is expected to strengthen further as dollars start to come in. Yesterday, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said that his office has received proposals from at least two investment banks for new foreign loans worth about $300 million.

He said the loan offers of $100 million and $200 million in private placements were "fully committed" from the investment banks' end at relatively attractive pricing and terms.

However, Camacho said the finance department would carefully study whether the national government still needed to obtain new loans since it had borrowed sufficiently to cover this year's estimated budget deficit of P145 billion.

Besides, the budget deficit picture is improving. In July alone, the budget gap amounted to only P4.76 billion as against a target of P12.98 billion as revenues of P53.98 billion exceeded the target by P2.89 billion while spending of P58.75 billion was lower by P5.35 billion than the projected P64.094 billion for the month.

"The July figures bolster our confidence to meet our yearend deficit target of P145 billion," Camacho said.

The modest budget gap in July reversed a worrying trend in the first six months of the year when the budget gap reached P79.559 billion, or more than half of the government's full-year target.

From January to July, the revenue collection of P320.68 billion still fell short by P7.06 billion against the target of P327.74 billion.

Expenditures continued to be modest at P403.27 billion or P18.06 lower than the programmed amount of P421.32 billion.

Collection shortfall of the Bureau of Internal Revenue reached P13.32 billion in the first seven months of the year as its earnings stood at P229.68 billion compared with the target of P242.99 billion.

The Bureau of Customs collected P54.997 billion, which was P2.07 billion lower than the P57.07-billion target.

The Bureau of Treasury's overperformance of P9.18 billion helped offset the shortfall in the collections of the BIR and the BoC. The Treasury was able to raise P20.16 billion for state coffers as against its commitment of only P10.98 billion.

INDICATORS

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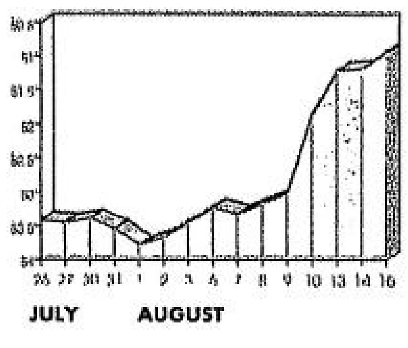

GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

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¥ 121.01 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 121.01 as of 5 p.m., August 15, 2001

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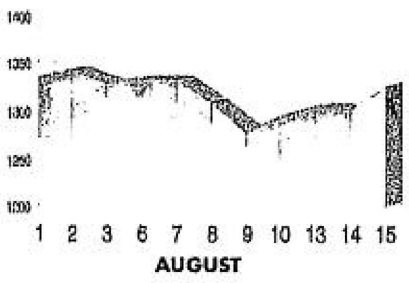
STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B3)

Shares rise 1.7%

SHARE prices rose 1.7 percent yesterday due to renewed strength in the local currency, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 22.1 points to close at 1,325.

"The peso's appreciation is amazing and it seems to be a good shock for the second half (of the year)," said Juan Trinidad of Vickers Ballas Securities Philippines Inc.

The local currency has been strengthening since the central bank cracked down on banks accused of currency speculation and due to general weakness in the dollar.

"The strengthening peso is the primary force behind the market's rise," said Elline Salvatierra of KGI Securities Inc.

Volume rose to 754 million shares worth P398 million from 481 million shares worth P271 million the previous day. *AFP*

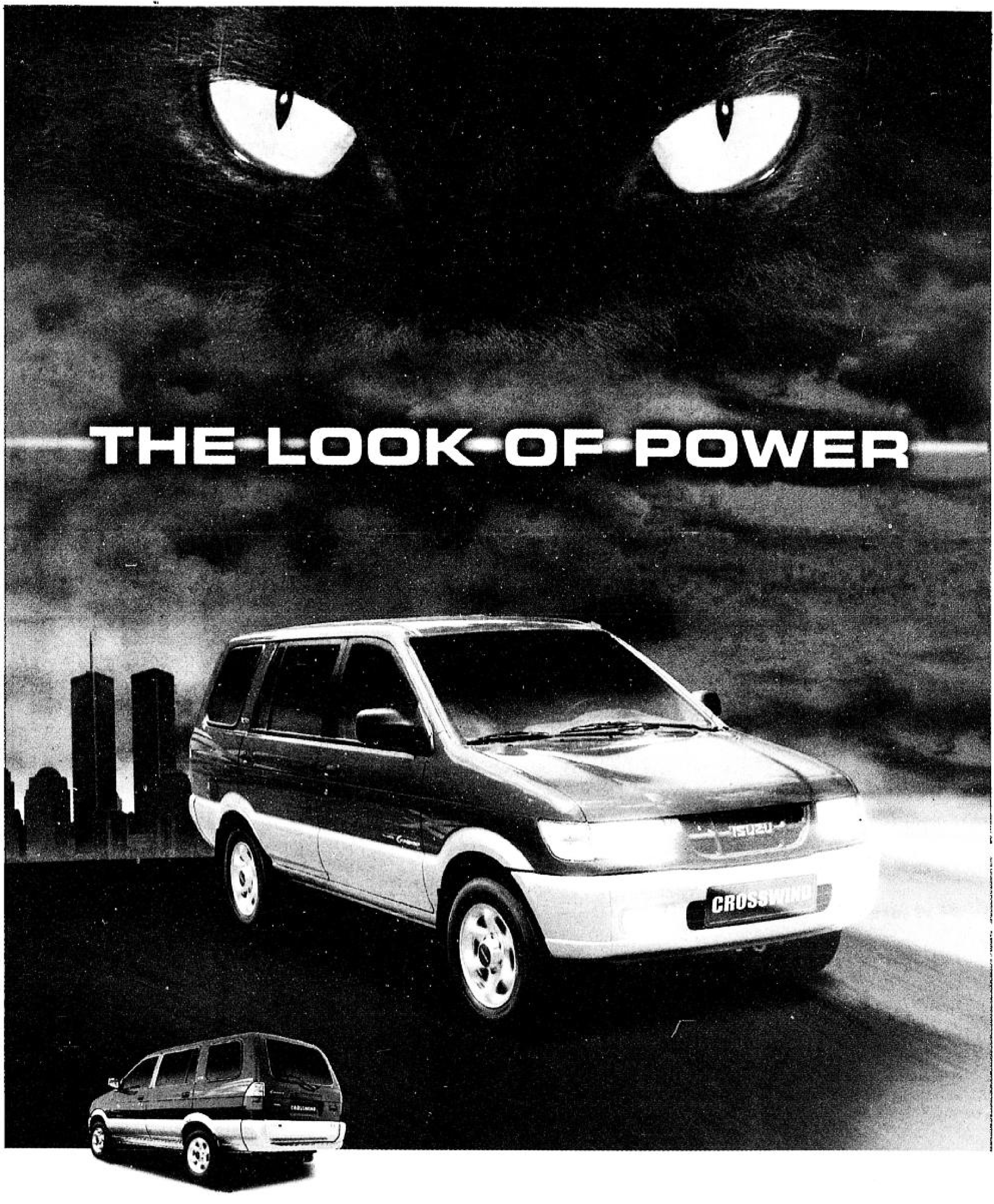
Yuchengco plans call-center unit

IPEOPLE Inc., the information technology holding company of the Yuchengco group, is set to venture into the lucrative call center business with a foreign partner.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Alfonso Yuchengco III said the venture would require an initial investment of $5 million (P255 million) for the first phase. A new company will be created for the new business and folded in as a subsidiary of iPeople, formerly oil and mining firm Petrofields Corp.

The new company would be housed by the new RCBC Plaza, a portion of which is a special IT center.

A call center has the ability to handle a considerable volume of calls at the same time, screen calls and forward them to those qualified to handle them. These are usually used by mail-order catalogue organizations, telemarketing companies, computer product help desk and large organization that uses the telephone to sell products and services.



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(B.M. Domingo Motor Sales, Inc.)
Km. 4 Tabang, Plondel, Bulacan
Telefax No. (044) 795-2342

MINDANAO
ISUZU CAGAYAN DE ORO
(Cebu Southern Motors, Inc.)
National Highway, Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (08822) 72-8344 to 45, (088) 856-1692, 856-1310 to 13
Telefax No. (08822) 72-6017

ISUZU MANILA, INC.
(Isuzu Manila, Inc.)
1502 Paz M. Guanzon Street, Otis, Paco, Manila
Tel. Nos. 562-4601 to 24
Fax No. 562-3787, 562-3771

ISUZU SAN PABLO
(Gencars Inc.)
Brgy. 1-A Colago Ave.
San Pablo City
Telefax No. (049) 562-8200
Tel. No. (049) 562-9990

ISUZU DAVAO
(Southern Motors of Davao, Inc.)
122 McArthur Highway, SMDI Bldg., Matina, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 297-3344, 297-8855, 297-8844, 297-8866, 297-8877
Telefax No. (082) 298-0088

ISUZU MAKATI
(Gencars, Inc.)
Dominga Bldg. III, 2113 Pasong Tamo cor. Dela Rosa St., Makati City
Tel. Nos. 819-1213, 818-1219, 817-0995, 843-6506, 843-6480, 843-2173, 843-2363, 843-5270,
Fax No. 893-6695, 893-1674

ISUZU CAVITE
(Isuzu Automotive Dealership Inc.)
E. Aguinaldo Hi-way, Imus, Cavite
Tel. Nos. (02) 750-4448 to 49, (046) 472-2145
Telefax No. (046) 602-2608

Manufactured and distributed by:
ISUZU PHILIPPINES CORPORATION
114 Technology Ave., Laguna Technopark Phase 2
Biñan, Laguna 4024 Philippines
Tel. Nos. (049) 541-0224
Fax No. 842-0202, (049) 541-0333

ISUZU ALABANG
(Isuzu Automotive Dealership, Inc.)
Alabang-Zapote cor. Acacia Ave.
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa, M.M.
Tel. Nos. 807-1788, 807-2310, 807-2316, 807-2320
Fax No. 809-5053

ISUZU BATANGAS
(Gencars-Batangas, Inc.)
Bo. San Roque, Crossing, Sto. Tomas, Batangas
Tel. Nos. (043) 778-1225, 778-1227
Telefax No. (043) 778-2213

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ISUZU ISABELA
(B.M. Domingo Motor Sales, Inc.)
349 Maharlika Highway, San Fermin Cauayan, Isabela
Tel. Nos. (078) 634-5046, 652-2030 652-3142
Telefax No. (078) 634-5209

VISAYAS
ISUZU MANDAUE (Isuzu Cebu, Inc.)
North Highway, Jagobiao, Mandaue City 6014 Cebu
Tel. Nos. (032) 346-3090, 346-3076, 346-3067, 346-3050, 346-3078, 346-3024, 346-2632
Sales DL (032) 419-3262
Telefax No. (032) 346-3046

ISUZU CABANATUAN
(B.M. Domingo Motor Sales, Inc.)
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Tel. Nos. (044) 463-8215, 463-1799
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Tel. Nos. (032) 234-0471 to 73
Fax No. (032) 234-0466

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CURRENCIES

August 15, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.107910	1.000000	51.1830
Japan	Yen	0.009089	0.008204	0.4199
United Kingdom	Pound	1.583426	1.429200	73.1507
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142222	0.128370	6.5704
Switzerland	Franc	0.659667	0.595415	30.4751
Canada	Dollar	0.721202	0.650957	33.3179
Singapore	Dollar	0.630713	0.569282	29.1376
Australia	Dollar	0.574940	0.518941	26.5610
Bahrain	Dinar	2.938911	2.652661	135.7711
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.295443	0.266667	13.6488
Brunei	Dollar	0.628780	0.567537	29.0482
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000131	0.000118	0.0060
Thailand	Baht	0.024703	0.022297	1.1412
UAE	Dirham	0.301718	0.272331	13.9387
Korea	Won	0.000860	0.000776	0.0397
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.902600	46.1978
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.461492	23.6205
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137600	7.0428
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.409582	20.9636
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065595	3.3573
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022375	1.1452
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000466	0.0239
Finland	Markka	0.168187	0.151806	7.7699
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004502	0.2304
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005425	0.2777
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024789	0.022375	1.1452
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.146066	58.6591

Mayor mayor on the wall

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SO OUR beloved mayors have a simple solution to all our problems. Why don't they, meaning, the mayors, and not the problems, just take over the police force?

Sure, right away, boss-chiefs! It's such a brilliant idea that it cannot help but gain all-out, full-hearted support from . . . well, the mayors.

Riding on the hyper publicity on peace and order, our dear mayors put forth the bright idea. Never mind that it is as discredited as the listed company BW Resources.

I am not sure why the mayors want their own police forces, but it may have something to do with power. And you know what absolute power does absolutely.

For the longest time before the PNP was created, mayors controlled the police force. So what happened then? The mayors simply got away with all sorts of crimes.

Control of the police may also be a way to feed their already fat egos. Thus, they can talk to the mirror on the wall and say, you are powerful, you fat ugly fellow you.

* * *

TODAY, surely, our problem regarding peace and order is invading the territory of economics. It is already affecting business. Here are two hints: tourism and investments.

That hit this cute administration during Gloriaetta's recent state visit to Malaysia. As you know, she tried to woo the rich Malaysians to invest in the Philippines.

What should greet Gloriaetta but the king-size worry of Malaysians over peace and order! Gloriaetta even tried to tell them that it was only a problem of perception.

Ironically, she could even be right, you know! Recent cases of kidnapping merited, for some reason, sensational treatment in media both here and abroad.

I have been trying to find the reason, but nobody can explain it to me as yet. I mean, it's not as if kidnapping never happened before on this planet.

If you cared to listen to the PNP, in fact, our police force could even boast of a higher number of arrests of kidnappers this year. More than a hundred so far!

Being just a visitor, however, Gloriaetta could just accept the way the Malaysians felt about our peace and order. You know—it is crumbling. That's the way they see it.

In Malaysia, you see, there is absolutely no crime except sodomy, which is only committed by high-ranking officials who have big mouths!

* * *

ANYWAY, even the Japanese business chamber here believes that peace and order can be one big block to the entry of new investments from Japan.

The other problems are, of course, political instability—i.e. too many loudmouthed politicos—and labor unrest. This last one you can thank NLRC for.

The investments that could have gone here, went instead to—of all places—Vietnam. Yes, it's that country that had 20 years of uninterrupted war.

Recently, in a briefing of Japanese officials for Manila-based Japanese, such an observation was made by president of the Japanese chamber, Shoichi Kamemaya.

He noted the rise of Japanese investments in Vietnam. In the past six months, they are already more than tripled. Possibly, they were moved from here to there.

Which is just well and good. I cannot wait for the day when our leader will also go to Vietnam and woo the rich Vietnamese to invest here. *Aray*!

* * *

NOW where did I hear that name Kim Wong before? I know there could be a million Kim Wongs in a little village in China alone, but I am sure I heard it many times before.

Let me see, could this be the same Kim Wong who, based on word going around in the Chinese-Filipino community, also owns a grocery store?

Thus, he is such a small fry that he could not possibly be involved in politics. Only, the grocery store happens to be located in Fort Bonifacio, and it is called Price Club.

Could Kim Wong, the grocer, be the same Kim Wong who, according to reports, owns that seafood restaurant near Rizal Park?

For all you know, there are a lot of Kim Wongs, and each of them has established connections in the highest places, including the judiciary.

Once upon a time, there was also a certain Kim Wong who operates a high-class night spot known as Narcissus. If only its walls can talk now . . .

* * *

MAYORS, anyway, are so sick and tired of the incompetence of our police force, they only want to serve the people better by taking over control of the policemen.

The only question is, if they take control of the police, will they also take control of the all the things necessary to run a police force. Salary, for instance!

One mayor in Metro Manila even brags that, yes, his city can afford to pay the salary of the police. His must be one affluent city! But why are its streets dirty?

Anyway, not all cities and municipalities in this poor country is as blessed as that mayor's stinking city by the Pasig River. They cannot afford to maintain police forces.

But if the mayors insist on spending a lot of money for the police, it should be welcome news to this cute administration. It means a lot of savings.

Methinks money is the real problem here. For three years now, the government failed to give our policemen the pay scale provided by law. Look at that—three years!

Moreover, in the past three years, the government was able to build huge debts to police retirees, to the tune of only P12 billion. Go ahead, just pass it on to the mayors!

Globe posts 311% growth in net income

GLOBE Telecom Corp. posted a 311-percent growth in net income in the first half of the year to P2.55 billion from P620.80 million in the same period last year.

Its net operating revenues stood at P15.45 billion, 84.6-percent higher than last year's P8.37 billion.

Wireless services accounted for 83.1 percent of Globe's total net operating revenues.

"Our wireless services growth remains robust, with a monthly average of 172,000 new subscribers for the second quarter," Globe chief finance officer Delfin Gonzales Jr. said.

Globe now has 3.44 million cellular subscribers, more than double last year's 1.7 million.

Its share of the wireless market, at 44 percent, is 2-percent behind its closest competitor Smart Communications Inc. In terms of GSM (global system for mobile communications) revenues, Globe is ahead of Smart by 8 percent at 52 percent of total wireless revenues.

Net revenues for wireless data services also saw growth from P927.10 million to P2.63 billion.

Most of this came from Globe's SMS (short messaging service) or text messaging service.

"Around 40 million text messages pass through our networks daily," Gonzales said.

Of its $751-million capex (capital expenditures) for the year, $190 million has already been used in the first half. About 85 percent of the amount was invested in Globe's wireless sector. *Abigail L. Ho*

PNB losses hit ₱3.9B in 6 mos.

PHILIPPINE National Bank reported a net loss of P1.9 billion in the second quarter of the year, bringing its first semester losses to P3.9 billion.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission Tuesday, the bank attributed the losses largely to interest expense on the P25 billion worth of borrowings from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. and the additional provision for probable loan losses.

Interest expense on bills payable and other borrowings, including those from the BSP and PDIC, amounted to P923.57 million in the second quarter, almost thrice the P368 million recorded in the same period last year.

Provisions for probable loan losses also shot up to P1.227 billion in the second quarter of the year from P310 million in the same period last year.

On the revenue side, PNB's interest income fell 11 percent to P2.84 billion in the second quarter from last year's P3.195 billion.

ICTSI makes ₱3B in profit

PORT operator International Container Terminal Services Inc (ICTSI) said yesterday it made a net income of P3B in the first half, including extraordinary gains from the sale of its foreign port operations.

It said that revenue in the first half of 2001 was P2.1 billion.

Income from operations was P342.5 million against year-ago level of P1.4 billion.

ICTSI, which operates ports in the Philippines, Argentina, Mexico, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, sold the bulk of its foreign operations to a unit of Hutchison Whampoa in June this year.

The cash value of the transaction was estimated at $400 million.

generation e-business

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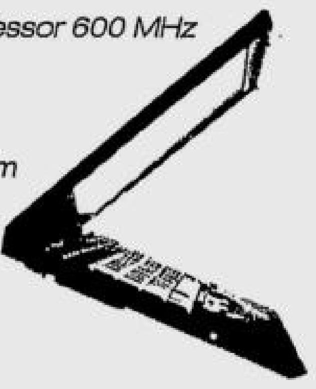

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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, August 15, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	62	63	62	62.5	470,400
China Banking Corp.	610	610	600	600	450
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32.5	33	32.5	33	29,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	209	210	207	208	44,060
Philippine National Bank	47	49.5	47	49.5	936,800
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	28.5	29	5,800
Security Bank Corp.	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.5	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	24.5	25	24.5	25	3,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	290,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	244	244	244	244	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1440	1440	1440	1440	280
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1170	1180	1170	1180	1,440
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	36	36.5	36	36.5	2,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.5	6,400,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	660	640	640	6,580
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	400,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	80,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.8	35,000
Piltel	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	570	585	570	580	69,790
Ivantage Corp.	0.75	0.77	0.75	0.77	60,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.03	0.032	0.029	0.032	146,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	32.5	33	32.5	33	17,300
Manila Electric Co. B	39.5	40	39.5	40	2,059,500
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.86	1.8	1.86	3,741,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	60,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	47,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.04	2.04	1.9	2	626,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	290,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	263,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	55,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	464,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	48,300
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	15	15	15	15	207,900
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	25.5	26	25.5	26	6,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	124	124	90	90	61,350
Pure Foods Corp. B	124	124	124	124	5,520
RFM Corp.	2.38	2.4	2.38	2.4	1,081,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	42,700
San Miguel Corp. B	55.5	56	55	55.5	160,800
Universal Robina Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	10,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	813,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	30,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.58	1.62	1.58	1.62	2,395,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	11	10.75	11	1,600
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1	1.02	1	1.02	413,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.43	0.43	120,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	2,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	150,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.8	1.84	1.78	1.82	3,578,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	1,110,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	110,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29.5	30	29	29	164,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.19	610,000
Ionics Inc.	10.5	11	10.5	11	175,000
Ipeople Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	40,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	219,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2	1.96	1.96	1,186,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	2,000
Medco Holdings	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	2,310,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	580,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	720,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	340,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	75,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.23	200,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	134,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54	370,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	400,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	1,790,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	760,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1,000,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.24	0.27	0.24	0.26	560,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	36.5	36.5	36.5	36.5	500
Globe Tel. A-Warrants	460	460	460	460	800
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	670	670	670	670	300
Jollibee Warrants	13	13.25	13	13	12,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	700
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.013	0.016	0.013	0.015	322,900,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.9	4,083,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	400,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.245	0.3	0.245	0.3	16,040,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.29	590,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.86	1.9	1.86	1.88	1,218,000
City & Land Developers	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	40,000
Primex Corp.	2.5	2.55	2.5	2.55	237,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2	2.02	2	2.02	15,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,000,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.5	3,240,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	10,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	10,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.032	0.041	0.032	0.041	177,300,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	800,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	3,800,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	70,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	800,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	8,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	760,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	3,500,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,787,430	87,491,840.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	510,660,840	254,471,655.00
PRO	26,863,000	48,468,910.00
Mining	192,880,000	7,125,500.00
OIL	22,380,000	1,055,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	754,571,270	398,613,505.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	537.36	UP 3.89
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,860.63	UP 19.70
PRO	515.98	UP 17.13
Mining	1,275.85	UP 45.00
OIL	1.71	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	769.54	DOWN 6.20
Composite	1,325.16	UP 22.10

NO. OF ADVANCES: 49; NO. OF DECLINES: 25; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 111; NO. OF TRADES: 2,363

DISCLOSURES

SAN Miguel Corp. confirmed that a non-competition agreement exists in the memorandum of understanding signed recently with **RFM Corp.** for the sale of **Cosmos Bottling Corp.**

* * *

UNION Bank of the Philippines reported that for the first six months of the year, its net income rose 26 percent to P506.3 million.

* * *

CENTRAL Azucarera de Don Pedro bought 4.7 million class "B" non-voting preferred shares of **Central Azucarera de la Carlota** from **Shin-Meito Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.** and **Nihon Sugar Refining Co.** at P5.33 per share.

* * *

DMCI Holdings Inc. changed the date for its annual stockholders' meeting from the second Wednesday of May to the last Wednesday of July each year.

* * *

FORTUNE Cement Corp. and **Republic Cement Corp.** both denied that their operations caused the oil spill in Teresa, Rizal.

* * *

ASIAN Terminals Inc.'s revenues for the first six months of the year rose by 12 percent to P1.62 billion. Its net income growth was flat at P232.9 million. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

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CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

SPARKING RAGE ON HIGHWAYS

Would you run amok over 'injured' self-esteem?

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

A CHEVY Beretta was running 20 miles per hour (about 45 kph) on the highway's fast lane. A Jeep Cherokee, its driver apparently irritated by the snail-paced Chevy, tailgated. The Beretta was forced to transfer to the slow lane.

Once the Jeep passed, however, the Chevy—its driver's ego apparently bruised—suddenly gave chase. The high-speed duel that happened afterward resulted in tragedy. The two drivers lost control of their vehicles as they fought for lane position at speeds in excess of 90 mph (120 kph). As the two cars rolled wildly, they crossed the median of the highway.

A vehicle from the opposite lane collided with the Beretta, instantly killing the vehicle's driver—a 49-year-old father of two. The 500-lb rear axle of the Beretta went airborne and landed on another car. The car's driver was a mother of three children.

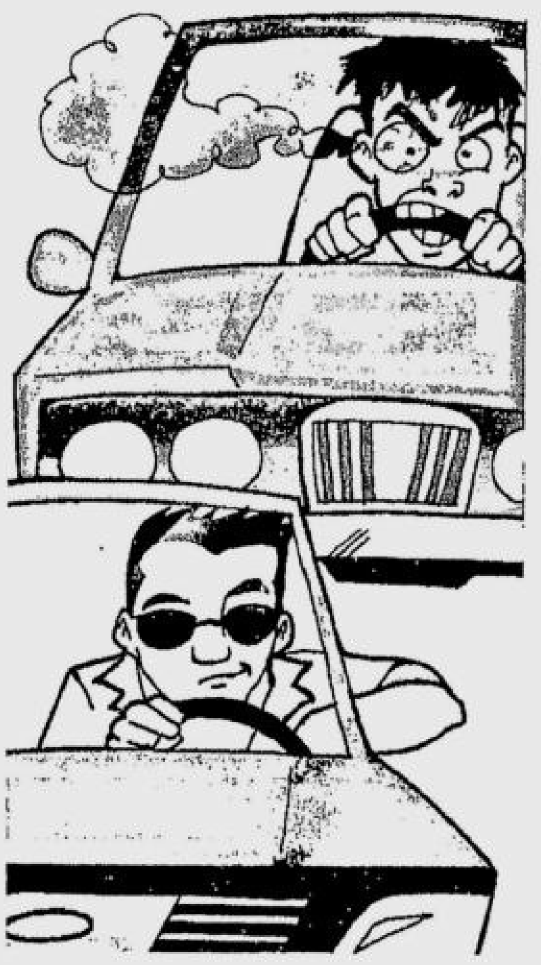
Three people died in this accident. Two of them were innocent motorists and breadwinners looking forward to another day of the rest of their fruitful lives. Everything had to be cut short by a pair of motorists who should have known better.

This story, which appeared in the Reader's Digest, is not isolated in American highways. Similar situations are found closer to home countless times. Unfortunately, no Philippine study has ever been conducted to quantify the extent of road rage in the Philippines and in the Filipino psyche.

Local tabloids and newspapers are good gauges, however. Here are some stories from newsstands:

- A pregnant woman and child shot to death by another car owner over parking space.
- A bus driver goes mad after a jeepney driver repeatedly cuts his path. The bus rams the jeep and runs over it, killing its seven passengers. All the occupants of the bus, including its passengers, escape.
- A speeding motorist cuts the path of another car on the Skyway. The aggrieved motorist gives chase, only to be shot in the left eye by the speedster. Luckily, the driver survives, sans left eye.

The crucial question that motorists have to answer every day would be "how far am I willing to go to salvage my injured self-esteem?"



Road rage is described by the American Automobile Association Foundation for Traffic Safety as "an incident in which an angry or impatient motorist or passenger intentionally injures or kills another motorist, passenger or pedestrian, or attempts or threatens to injure or kill another motorist, passenger or pedestrian."

The AAAFTS is quick to add that the terms "road rage" and "aggressive driving" are not one and the same. Road rage is uncontrolled anger that results in violence or threatened violence on the road, while aggressive driving does not rise to the level of criminal behavior that road rage does. Aggressive driving may involve tailgating, abrupt lane changes and speeding, or a combination of these. These are dangerous traffic offenses but are not criminal behavior.

'Manglamang'

LTO traffic education chief Daisy Jacobo rates road rage in the Philippines as 3 in a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 is the most violent. Filipino motorists' ire, she observes, doesn't necessarily translate to road rage. She adds that Filipinos are basically "*matiisin*" (patient).

Says Jacobo: "Besides, we don't take it on the road because we think vehicles are too expensive to waste. If ever there are road ragers, perhaps they are those who can afford to waste their cars."

What would be more evident, she says, would be the Filipino culture of "*mang-isa*" or "*manglamang*" (loosely translated as to get one over the others).

Jacobo says that there has been a Philippine study in the '80s that showed Filipinos often look for a way to get even with somebody whom they think is also getting one over them.

"This was partly due to our socio-political circumstances. During Hispanic times, Filipinos, after planting crops, would be sent away for months on the sea, when they returned, their land was not crop-ready again. And so they look for ways to get even with the Spanish colonizers."

Today Filipino mentality "to get even with somebody" or get one over the other has become part of every aspect of Filipino culture, including the driving culture.

Road courtesy takes a back seat

Other Filipino drivers compensate for their inadequacy and incompetence via uncalled-for aggression, says Jacobo.

For public utility drivers, road rage does not seem to take over their systems. These drivers, in fact, are very patient. Meeting the "boundary" or the vehicle operators' quota is what matters most and maybe even restrains them.

Road rage, it seems, is not a function of poverty.

Jacobo says road rage's abode is in the rich, upper middle class of society.

A driver with a mental or psychological baggage would likely commit road rage, says Jacobo. Road rage, according to her, stems from "deep-seated frustrations." These frustrations cause high-level anxieties, she says. These frustrations could be over anything—a job, a relationship, or a domestic problem.

"Here's somebody who is frustrated and ready to do battle. Then somebody cuts his path. That is the proverbial last straw that broke the camel's back," she says.

Narrow roads, poor economic conditions and poor roads are just triggers and aggravating factors, she adds.

Leasing vs buying

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

NEW YORK CITY—Leasing a car instead of buying it is a growing trend in America's urban centers, including New York. In the voluminous Sunday edition of The New York Times, the big ads in the 22-page Automobiles Section inviting readers to lease cars outnumbered the ads selling cars. "Summertime. . .and the leasing is easy!" trumpeted the ad of an Audi dealer.

Brother No.2, who lives 30 minutes away from Manhattan in Park Ridge, New Jersey and is himself a convert to leasing, explained the leasing boom. The biggest attraction of leasing, he said, is that at the end of the lease period you return the car to the dealer and get a new one. But if you buy the car through financing, say on a 36-month installment plan, it will cost you more than if you had leased it and you end up with a three-year-old car. Moreover, you have to shoulder the cost of maintenance whereas when you lease, depending on the deal you work out, you don't have to worry about maintenance—all scheduled servicing and warranty repair, except for the cost of the engine oil for an oil change, are free. "You're paying for the amount of car that you actually use," he figures. "Initial price minus resale value plus interest for the amount involved is the lease price divided by the number of months of the lease term."

Brother No. 2, who used to keep his cars for 10 years and run them to the ground, started leasing in 1993. "I want a new car every three years," he says, so he sold his old cars. He is now on his fourth leased car, a 2001 Mercedes-Benz E320 AWD (all-wheel-drive) sedan loaded with $3,500 worth of options. He chose the E-Class after returning last February the BMW 525i sedan he had been leasing for three years.

The retail price of the MB E320 with the options he chose would have been $54,200 if he had bought it. Instead, upon signing a 39-month closed end lease contract, he paid a total lease inception fee of $4,659 to cover capitalized cost reduction ($3,000), acquisition fee ($695), motor vehicle registration fee ($225) and first month's payment ($739). He agreed to pay $739 every month for 39 months and not to exceed 15,000 miles a year. If the mileage goes beyond 45,000 miles at the end of the lease term, he will pay 15 cents for every extra mile. But he is guaranteed 24-hour roadside assistance if his trip is interrupted, he forgets his key in the car or runs out of gas or requires towing. At lease end, he has the option to either purchase the Benz for $35,414.50, lease it again or lease a new car.

Leasing a car less luxurious than a Benz or a preowned car costs much less, of course. "You can lease a brand-new Honda Accord for less than $200 a month," Brother No.2 claims. The ads proclaim that a certified preowned 1999 BMW M3 coupé can be leased for $398 a month/36 months, a brand-new 2001 BMW 525i sedan for $409 a month/36 months, a new 2001 Audi TT roadster for $389 a month/39 months, a new 2001 Volvo S60 for $339 a month/48 months, a new 2001 Lincoln Continental for $499 a month/36 months, a new 2001 Lexus IS300 for $399 a month /39 months, a new 2001 Infiniti 130 for $399 a month/39 months. In some of these offers, zero cash is due at signing of the lease contract or you can trade in your old car as the down payment.

On the other hand, leasing instead of buying a car has its disadvantages, the biggest of which is you don't have equity, meaning you don't own the car. "But I'm driving a car, not equity," Brother No. 2 counters with a smile.

Another drawback is that if the car is damaged or wrecked, the lessee has to answer for its repair. Some lease contracts hold the lessee responsible for maintenance and repair outside the coverage of the full maintenance program. At lease end, the car is inspected by an independent assessor for excessive wear and tear. If the tires, battery, brakes or floor mats are worn out, the lessee will have to replace them. If the seats are frayed, torn or worn out, they will be reupholstered at the expense of the lessee. Scratches, dings and dents that cannot be covered by a quarter (a US 25-cent coin) or a credit card translate into deductions from the lessee's refundable security deposit.

The security deposit is one of the hidden costs of leasing, ditto the taxes, title, license, registration and insurance, all of which are shouldered by the lessee. In a few cases, there is a disposition fee if the lessee does not exercise the purchase option at lease end.

Given these terms and conditions, would a car leasing business similar to the one here in the States ever flourish in the Philippines? You readers tell me!

***

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E-mail comments to aida_sevilla@pacific.net.ph

2002 Adventure drives Mitsubishi to top post

RELYING on the tremendous market reception of its new 2002 Adventure, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. grabbed the overall market leadership in July, outselling its closest rival, Toyota Motors Philippines.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines sold a total of 1,727 units representing 23.9 percent of the market. Its July sales performance also surpassed the overall industry sales performance in terms of growth rate (against June sales performance), as Mitsubishi managed to improve its sales by 64.5 percent against the industry's growth rate of only 12.5 percent.

Based on combined reports provided by the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) and Truck Manufacturers Association, Toyota Motor Philippines closely trailed Mitsubishi with total sales of 1,706 units, posting a market share of 23.6 percent. Isuzu Philippines ranked third with 1,086 units for a 15 percent share of the market.

Overall, the industry posted total sales of 7,224 units in July that is so far a record high for this year. However, total automotive industry still needs to recover further as it is still down by 13.6 percent compared to the same period last year.

Said MMPC senior executive vice president Yoshizumi Kurata: "Given MMPC's July performance, we have very good chances of topping Toyota's sales this year with a very good market acceptance of the 2002 Adventures and upgraded Lancers and our other LCVs. It is close, but Toyota is a formidable competitor and definitely it will be exciting toward the end of the year."

Caltex Revtex launches Lethal Weapons

CALTEX Revtex, the motorcycle oil product range that provides the right choice of lubricating oil for every kind of motorcycle engine, has recently launched in the market two latest additions to its family of superior-performance, top-quality motorcycle oils.

Dubbed as "Lethal Weapons," Revtex Fully Synthetic 4T and the Revtex Super 4T were formally launched in an action-packed and well-attended event held at the Luzon and Visayas Ballrooms of the Westin Philippine Plaza.

Specifically designed for use in 4-stroke motorcycle engines, the Revtex 4T product line addresses all the problems and severe conditions unique to a 4-stroke motorcycle engine, such as high engine rpm, high oil temperature, high load and wear-tendency, and presence of a "wet" clutch system.

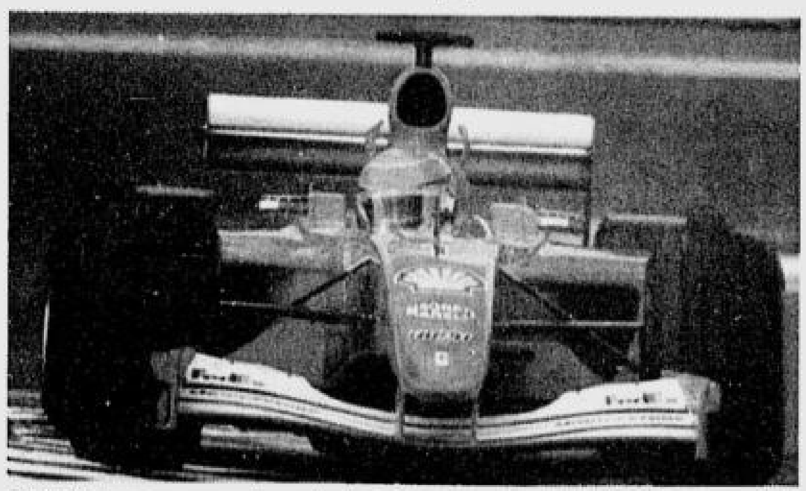
Its proven metallo-organic antiwear additive system provides complete engine protection for the 4T bike, especially on the highly stressed components of the engine, power train and transmission. Revtex 4T produced outstandingly high margin of protection over American, European and Japanese industry test standards.

Motorcycle enthusiasts and big bikers present in the event cited Revtex 4T's benefits, namely: prolongs engine life, maximizes savings on maintenance, provides lively throttle response and power, and guarantees superior all-temperature protection.

TIPPING THE BALANCE OF POWER

Can Williams snip the bud?

BY RAYMOND TRIBDINO



CAN Schumey wrap it up in two races? SHELL-FERRARI PHOTO SERVICE

WE all thought Williams-BMW tipped the balance, with Juan Pablo Montoya's amazing blast to P1 at Hockenheim qualifying. In his customary combative form, the young charger from Columbia drove his flying lap with grace and gusto, pushing his teammate (and allegedly fierce rival) Ralf Schumacher down to second place. Everyone was expecting a Montoya-Schumacher-Schumacher (last two names interchangeable) finish.

But on race day that that was not to be.

Green light saw Luciano Burti make a real "flying lap." His Prost slamming into the rear end of M. Schumacher's Ferrari at the end of the start-finish line. The mishap sent it (and pieces of it) into the air. Pirouetting once before flipping twice, the AP204 landed right side up, with one detached wheel on top of Enrico Bernouldi's Arrows.

Frustrations

Both Schumacher and Burti walked out of the accident, with the World Champ checking on the still startled Burti. Officials stopped the race, giving both drivers the opportunity to board their spare cars and get back into contention.

Williams-BMW's Juan Pablo Montoya took pole and naturally led in his usual slam-the-pedal fashion. His curb tossing antics and furious driving style had cost him the race. But he seems to be his stigma. When he finishes a race, he finishes well. But when he botches it, he does it big time.

Schmacher and McLaren's David Coulthard both had to park their cars mid-session with electronic and hydraulic problems, respectively. Poor Hakkinen, who had so much hope in finishing this race, also ended up in frustration when his engine gave up on him.

Cruise to victory

Ralf Schumacher got his second podium and for good reason. Unlike the inexperienced Montoya, whose aggressiveness is always directed at the right pedal, the younger Schumacher literally cruised to victory after both Coulthard and brother Michael dropped out of contention. His only problem, Brazilian Rubens Barichello was 50++ seconds away.

And lucky-as-a-rabbit's foot Jacques Villenueve took his second third place this season, upping BAR-Honda by a much-needed 4 points in the constructors over Jordan. Both teams use Honda's RA series engines, and it has been a nip-and-tuck battle for Honda's recognition and checkbook ever since.

So it's still even-steven for the top dogs. Except for Ralf who is now one point ahead of Rubens in the driver's championship. Ferrari is still top constructor, but BAR now moves a notch ahead of Jordan.

Winningest F1 driver

If my mathematics serves me right, all that Herr Schumacher needs to get Ferrari's second consecutive driver's and constructor's championships are two grand prix. With 84 points to his name, two more first place finishes and he would have built up a lead that would not only assure him of the title but etch his name in racing history books as the winningest F1 driver this century.

Here's a little pencil pushing.

Michael Schumacher has totaled 762 points in 156 grand prix starts (Hockenhiem adds nothing). Of that figure, 500 points are for top podium finishes. That equals 50 GP wins in his 21-year career in racing. That's an average of 5 points per race. For 2001 he has sat on pole in 8 of the 12 race starts, giving two to David Coulthard and two to his brother Ralf. He has also finished 6 of his poles in first. Not bad for an F1 nobody less than a decade ago.

Closest rival

His closest rival for F1 history is Frenchman Alain Prost. Prost started in 202 GPs and won in 51 of them before going into retirement. He has collected 799 points in his illustrious racing career, but averaged only 4 points per race or a winning streak of 25 percent as against Schumey's 33 percent. And remember, for about six races in 1999, Schumacher was out of contention due to broken bones in his leg, yet he bagged enough points to give him third place behind then teammate Eddie Irvine just 18 points away from 1999 World Champ Mika Hakkinen. That's how good Mr. Schumacher is.

ONLY two wins to a title repeat

A little note about the cocky Montoya. The paddock joke is that Juan Pablo is.

What's next?

Five races to go, and the driver's championship is still not clear. In all likelihood it will be Schumacher's. Ferrari isn't about to throw away the chance at a second back-to-back driver's and constructor's crown, to put to shame McLaren for having upped them in 1998 and 1999 with Hakkinen at the helm. Even with 5 third places (an unlikely scenario, given the rest of the courses, most especially Indy and Suzuka, which are shoe-ins for Schumey) he will still lead everyone else.

Though it would be fun to see more of the other teams on the podium in the final stages of the season. After all is said and done, I'd like to see more of Nick Hiedfeld, Jos Verstappen and Kimi Raikkonen, on the podium. These are three F1 drivers who, with better cars and better teams, will surely produce world championship results.

In Hockenhiem, many like-minded F1 addicts placed bets on Montoya dropping out again and Schumacher Jr. plopping to second with Hakkinen as race leader. Third podium step, these people surmised would have gone to Michael Schumacher, if Ferrari opted for a two-stop strategy. This was an educated guess based on the grid positions at race start. Also on the behavior of both driver and car in a straight line, which was what Hockenhiem was made mostly of. What'll happen in Hungary is anyone's guess.

Dare to make a fearless forecast?

(Author's note: This weekend the races go to Hungagoring, probably the twistiest circuit next to Monaco. It is a sharp contrast to the quick straights of Hockenheim and may prove another heartbreaker. Two movements have happened. Prost's lead driver Jean Alesi swaps places with Jordan top man Hans Harald Frentzen. The driver swap has caused great anxiety, and at the same time great expectations. Let's see what Alesi can do with Honda power.)

Volvo S60: Definitely not for chauffeurs

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR AND RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO

VOLVO S60

BELIEVE us. You wouldn't want your chauffeur driving the Volvo S60.

You'd miss the kind of confidence, excitement and ground-hugging performance only a Volvo could provide.

This latest item on Volvo's menu displaces 1,984 cc. But don't let that fool you. In the LPT trim (Light Pressure Turbo), the S60 is capable of 240 bhp at 5,300 rpm, eking out 240 Nm of torque up to maximum engine speed. All that power is capably handled by a rigid and dynamic chassis boasting of the widest track in locally available cars of this displacement. The "L" version outputs well within the range of other 2.0-liter cars at 180 bhp, but even so, the level of confidence the S60 inspires is truly for serious driving pleasure.

Although the S60's stately elegance and snobbish stance seem to encourage sitting in the back, chin up, nose high, it is a great injustice not to personally take control of the car. Only when you ease your spine on the cushiony seats, shift into gear and firmly plant your right foot on the pedal, will you understand why this Volvo isn't for chauffeurs.

Smmmoootthhh

Raymond: After reading the specs on paper, I expected a neck-breaking roller-coaster ride back home to Laguna. But the S60 delivered power so smoothly I forgot there was a turbocharger inside the engine bay. The car isolates passengers from most road noise, but provides the driver with necessary feedback. Steering is a bit on the heavy side compared to say a Benz or Audi, but that is exactly how a driver's car feels. You get a lot of data from the car so you can sense how it is reacting to your driving.

Most of my passengers felt the suspension was really supple. But the suspension is really set on the firm side, again providing the much-needed feedback to the driver. I enjoyed driving on long stretches of road and feel how the multilink underpinnings reacted to curves, dips and bumps.

Tessa: I felt the four wheels firmly "planted" on the ground, stubbornly solid, big and stable. The S60 does feel heavy compared to other cars but while stepping on the gas pedal, I felt an even surge of power, so smooth that one would be tempted to go beyond the speed limit. Perhaps even knee-jerk drivers would be surprised how smooth their driving would be once they get to drive this.

Mang Ernie: *Napakadaling dalhin. Medyo mabigat ang manibela kumpara sa ibang* luxury cars *na nasubukan ko. Pino at napakalakas ng hatak pero hindi mabilis tumulin* (It's a breeze to drive. Comparatively, the steering is a bit taut. A really torquey but smooth engine. Takes a while to gain speed).

Purposeful performance

Raymond: *Tama kayo diyan.* The S60 does not zoom from zero to 100 in tire-burning fashion, but rather goes through the paces. But that does not mean it is slow. If you really want to, you'll get to 100 kph in about 11 seconds at normal engine revs. Top speed? Well, the literature reads 210 kph. But my test-drive contract specified no speed tests. So is 200 kph from Sto. Tomas to Lipa via the Southern Tagalog Access Road (STAR) expressway good enough?

Tessa: Golly, did you really go that fast? Driving the S60 in the city wasn't enough. This 5-speed "Geartronic" automatic transmission—reflecting smooth delivery—would be ideal in long, long drives such as to Pagudpud at the very northern edge of this island. To go with its P2-million plus price tag is luxury even in long hauls.

Mang Ernie: *Hindi ko pa po napapatakbo ng mas mabilis sa* 160 kph *dahil nagagalit ang* boss *ko. Pero alam kong marami pang maibibigay ang* Volvo. *Kahit mahigit* 12,000 kilometers *na ang tinakbo namin pabalik-balik sa* Subic, *parang bago pa rin ito* (My boss frowns at speeds over 160 kph, but I know it can go faster. Even with over 12,000 kilometers on the clock, driving back and forth to Subic, it still feels new).

To-die-for interior

Tessa: The first thing I did when I started the car was to insert my mobile phone SIM card inside the onboard GSM phone pad embedded in the right side of the console. A mini screen on my left indicated my personal directory and if I had text messages. While driving on the highway, I was able to conduct a conference call as my passengers and I talked freely with somebody on the other end of the line (there's also a speakerphone built in). Directional buttons could also be found on the steering wheel so one could choose what number to call. As expected, controls weren't hard to reach. Within easy reach (even for us small Asians) were the electronic climate control, the b-pillar ventilation, the 8-speaker audio system (tuner cassette with in-dash CD player), and controls for the 10-disc CD changer. Surprising for a sedan, there were aircon vents on the middle pillars for the back passengers.

Raymond: Right you are, Tessa. But that C-pillar blocks visibility—even with those folding headrests. But finally, here is a car with wood paneling that I actually like. Though don't you think carbon-fiber trim would do more justice to its sporty look and feel?

Mang Ernie: *Ang laking sasakyan pero madaling dalhin* (It's a big car but it's easy to drive).

Safety equals confidence

Mang Ernie: *Parang napakatibay ng* Volvo. *Wala akong katakot-takot imaneho kahit na matulin* (It feels so solid and strong. I have so much confidence driving fast).

Raymond: So do I. What with all those acronyms—SIPS, SRS, WHIPS, EBD, IC—that all spell S-A-F-E. And you are safe in other ways, too. Antilock brakes, antitheft systems, antisubmarining on all seats; all the antis you could think of. Then there is an engine immobilizer, eye-level brake lamp, lights that gradually turn off, shift lock and key block, a protected fuel tank…whew!..when will the list stop?

Tessa: So okay, they say that it's the safest car in the world. But there's just one thing. I felt the A-pillars on the left and right sides of the windshield frame were too thick for me. And it created blind spots on my right and left peripherals. I really have to go slow on merging lanes and honk once or twice.

While Mang Ernie grabs all the fun from his boss, we give the Volvo S60 a **much-deserved 9 out of a total of 10 points.** But what faults can you find apart from the insufficient trunk lighting, hard-to-operate child locks on the rear doors, the lack of a window locking switch, and tons of brake dust up front? But those are very minor compared to the value, safety and performance the S60 delivers.

(Thanks to "**don't-tell-them-who-I-am**" Volvo S60 owner and his personal chauffeur, Ernano Espinosa, 42. We assured Mang Ernie he would not lose his job if we do convince his boss that the S60 is a driver's car. His boss, however, says he enjoys the backseat more, with the B-pillar aircon vent and what he describes as an audio system rivaling his over P100,000 Bose system at home. Besides, he gets to drive the S60 during the weekend trips to Tagaytay. We wonder if he goes over 160. Hmm?)

About time

FULL TANK

Al S. Mendoza

TALK about an innovation of note in the automotive industry and you have it right at your doorstep. This very minute.

No, you can't find it in the garage of, say, a Zobel de Ayala. Nor in the playground of Brunei's Bolkiah, who owns a thousand or more cars that it takes the Sultan's slew of drivers the whole day just warming up his toys.

The latest innovation in the automotive industry can be found in the heart and mind of every living creature who values not vanity but valor. It is an innovation that does not feed on vanity, as in satisfying one's ego for the sake of egotistical considerations. Instead, it extols man's quest for valor through the highest tenets of decency and quality. It is an innovation that can last forever.

Who said badges of distinction had become extinct?

Think again, buddies.

This innovation sets it apart from the rest. Owning it, winning it, can be the gift of a lifetime. Whoever conceptualized it deserves more than a commendation. A monument is more like it. Made not only of cement but also of marble.

The latest innovation in the automotive industry has no extended fenders. No bull bars. No gleaming mag-wheels. No desert-storm tires. No power windows. No VTEC engine. No airbags strong enough to cushion the impact of a head-on collision. Not even fuel-efficient.

It doesn't need a comprehensive insurance. Not even a yearly LTO renewal of registration. It doesn't need a garage, a raincoat, a roof, to protect it from rain, sun and fog. And, yes, its biggest come-on is its being rust-free as it lives forever. Anyone lucky enough to own it will treasure it for the rest of his life. Like a piece of furniture, or heirloom, it appreciates in value as the years go by. It even stays with the family beyond the owner's lifetime; the owner's grandchildren will be proud of him/her for having won it.

And what is this latest innovation that was met with unmitigated glee?

It is an award like no other. It is—you guessed it right—the Henry Ford Awards.

"This will be Ford's first effort to formally recognize the talent and skills of journalists from television and print mediums and promote excellence in motoring writing," said the contest organizers. "The Henry Ford Awards is the first automotive writers awards in the country."

Amen to that.

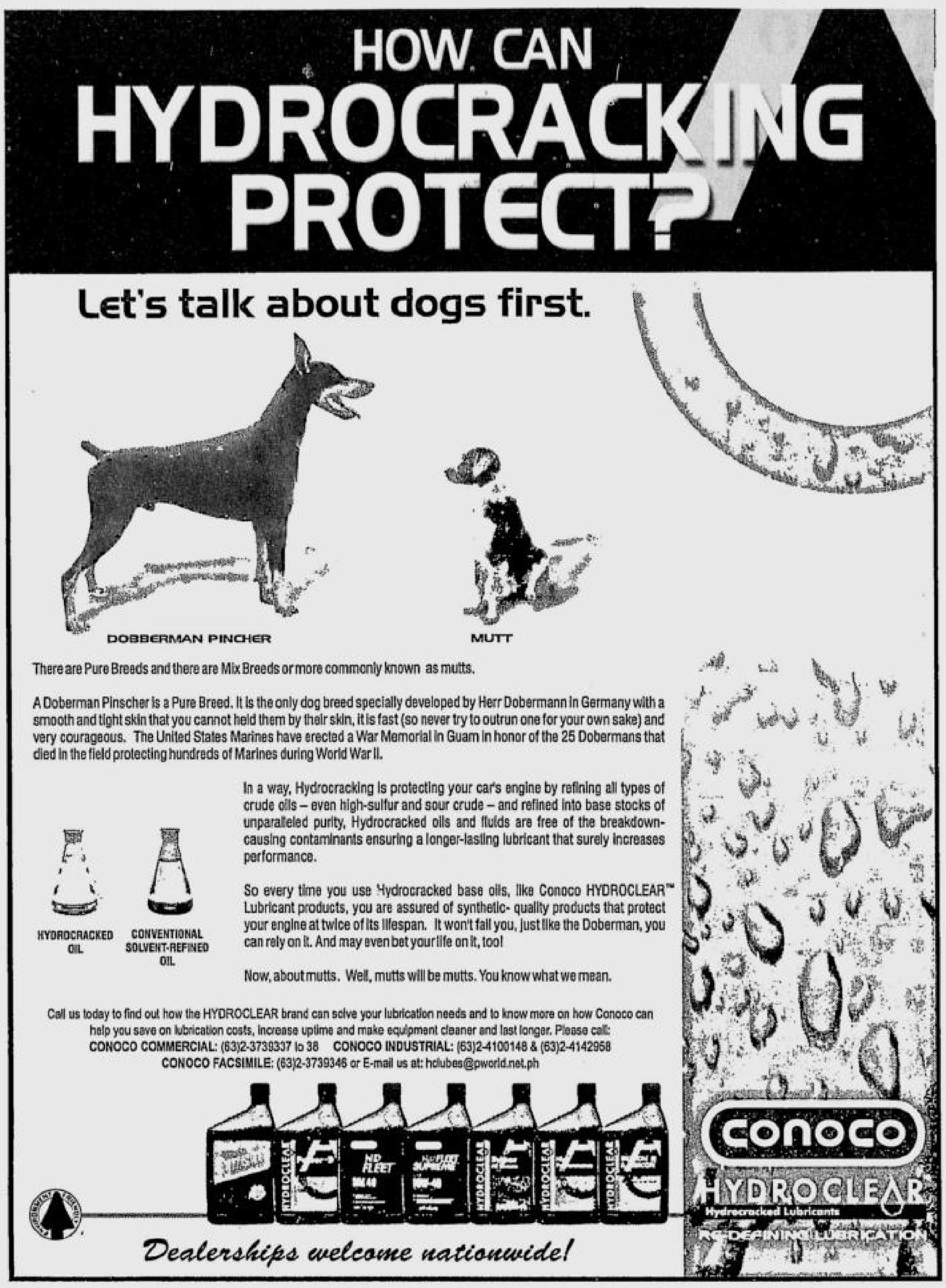
Indeed, Ford's latest innovation will institutionalize motoring writing in the country in that it will truly gun up the engine of quality pieces which the automotive industry writers will churn out hopefully from here on. Like America's Pulitzer Prize, the Henry Ford Awards will help wake up the "talent and skills" that have been, possibly, in deep slumber among motoring journalists all these years. Like the Nobel Prize for Literature, the Henry Ford Awards will serve as a forum to stimulate the creative juices of motoring journalists. The Awards will spur motoring journalists to plod on with an unflagging spirit and produce "literature in a hurry" long absent in the newspaper's usually tame, if not dry, automotive section. About time every newspaper's Motoring section gets a perk. Happily, the Henry Ford Awards has provided that; it's a long overdue shot-in-the-arm, so to speak.

I'm sure that if Henry Ford were alive today, he'd personally come over to hand out the awards to the first batch of winners. He always had a flair for drama. His lust for history is legend. And, oh, he loved poetry. His famous words, as always, ring in my ears: "I am not an inventor. I am an innovator."

That Ford Motor Company beat the opposition to the draw as to be able to come up with a project with a substance like the Henry Ford Awards is a sterling tribute to the man's legacy of eternal adherence to a stab at the future. It could not have come at a better time, when the automotive industry is teeming with topics worthy of comment from the nation's motoring writers. The Awards is a salute once more to the man's vision.

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, start pushing that pen.

Let the contest begin.



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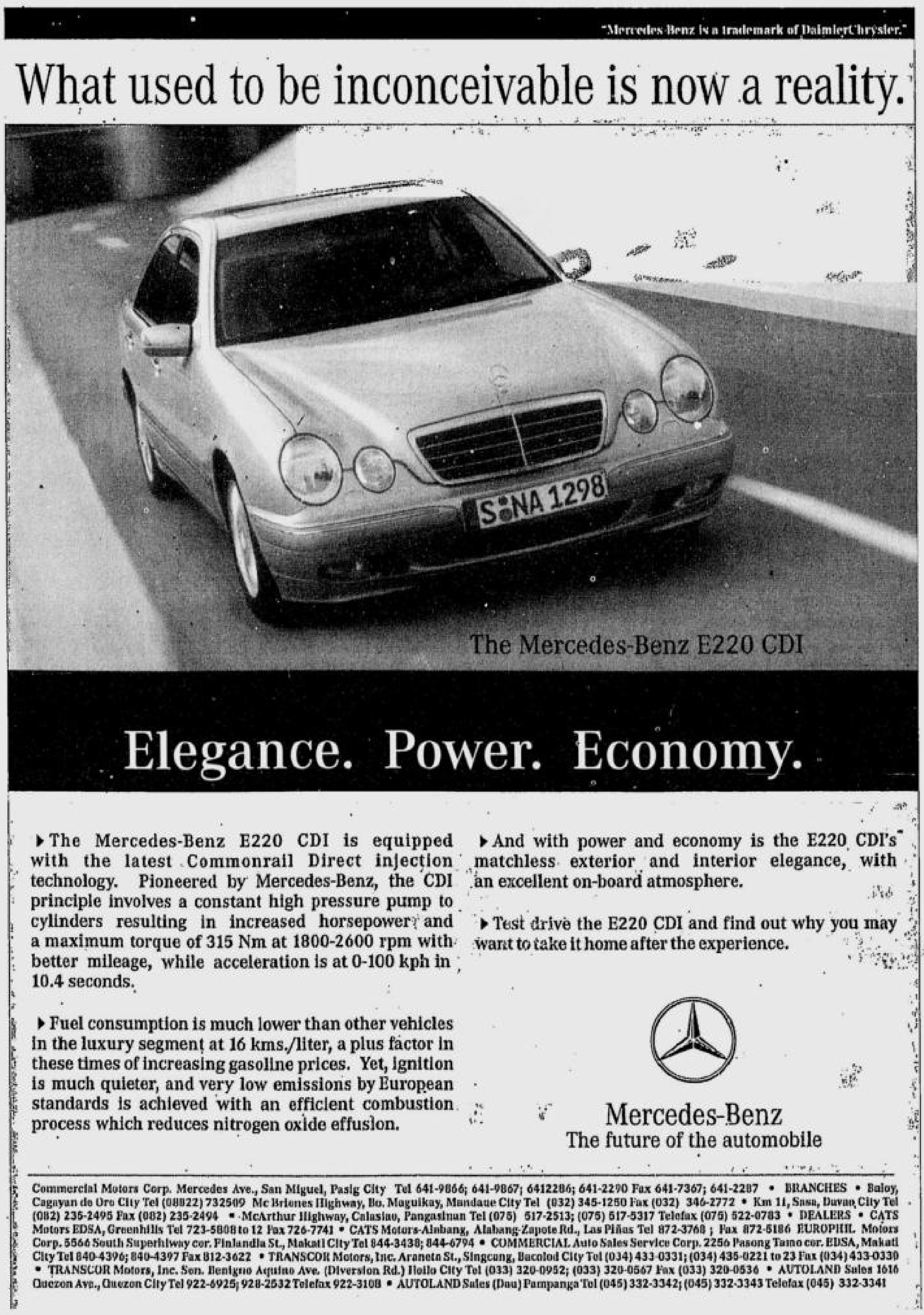

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Roxas says cement a strategic industry

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TRADE Secretary Manuel Roxas II said yesterday that cement was a strategic industry that the government would help develop to enhance the country's competitiveness in a global market.

In a speech before members of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Roxas said the Department of Trade and Industry was prepared to help the local cement industry in view of a recent surge in cheap imports.

The government would move to protect thousands of jobs in cement factories and support industries that depended on these plants, he told the PCCI.

Roxas also cited petrochemicals, packaging, oleochemicals and steel as strategic industries that the government was prepared to help against unfair trading practices.

While acknowledging that foreign cement giants were dominating the local market, Roxas said Filipinos would be the biggest losers should the cement industry crumble.

The local cement industry is currently dominated by the so-called Big 4 cement firms: Holderbank Financiere Glaris Ltd., Cemex SA, Lafarge SA and Blue Circle Industries Plc.

"I am not an apologist for cement manufacturers, but thousands of Filipino workers and other collateral businesses are at stake in this issue, and that is our top priority," the trade secretary said.

Roxas was reacting to reports accusing him of favoring the foreign-dominated Philippine Cement Corp. for supposedly pushing for restrictions on the entry of imported cement.

SWELLING BAD LOANS

NPL ratio up ₱2.7B in June

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BAD-LOANS ratio of the country's 45 commercial banks deteriorated to 16.96 percent in June from 16.81 percent in May, according to the central bank.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday that the banking system had about P267.06 billion worth of bad loans in June, up from May's P264.36 billion.

The central bank also said the total loan portfolio of the country's commercial banks shrunk by P879 million in June from P1.576 trillion in May.

Persons familiar with the situation said the NPL ratios of the country's 43 commercial banks worsened, as a continuing economic slowdown forced more borrowers to stop paying their debts. The economic slowdown also discouraged businessmen from acquiring new loans or putting up new companies, leading to a smaller loan portfolio, they said.

The central bank said the NPL ratio would have swelled to 18.73 percent in June from 18.4 percent in May had interbank loans been included in the computation.

The central bank also reported that the bad-loans ratio of over 100 thrift banks rose in April to 11.98 percent from 11.53 percent in March despite a 0.6-percent loan growth.

Excluding interbank loans, the BSP said the bad-loans ratio of thrift banks stood at 12.72 percent in April from 12.03 percent in March.

The NPL ratios of local universal and commercial banks worsened to 19.47 percent and 20.72 percent in June from 19.11 percent and 19.94 percent in May.

Foreign and state-owned commercial banks saw their NPL ratios improve to 4.88 percent and 17.16 percent in June from the previous month's 5.09 percent and 17.52 percent.

Published statements of condition of commercial banks earlier showed that United Overseas Bank Philippines had the highest bad-loans ratio as of end-June.

During the April-June period, UOB Philippines' NPL ratio rose to 62.7 percent from 56.6 percent in the first quarter. The bank reported that the amount of bad loans in its portfolio grew by P800 million to P4.88 billion.

The Philippine National Bank came in second, with a bad-loans ratio of 44 percent in the second quarter from 40 percent in the first quarter. An additional P4.5 billion in loans in its portfolio turned sour in the April-June period.

In terms of absolute amounts, however, PNB tops the list of banks with bad loans. Some P44.736 billion of its loans are considered nonperforming, up from the first quarter's P40.29 billion.

The Macapagal administration and PNB majority shareholder Lucio Tan are deep in talks on a debt-for-equity swap that will allow the government to regain control of the debt-laden bank.

Globe to give fewer free text messages

By Abigail L. Ho

STARTING next month, Globe Telecom Inc. subscribers will receive considerably less free text messages per month.

Globe officials justified the move, saying the company had been going on rates that were established two years ago, when the peso stood at around 40 to a dollar.

"We've kept the rate per message at P1. In other countries, one text message would cost you around P4 to P7. They have the same equipment we have," Globe senior vice president Gil Genio said in an interview on Tuesday.

He said Globe spent a lot on equipment to make sure that its network could handle the volume of traffic that passed through it everyday.

Out of its $751-million capital expenditure for the year, around 85 percent is for Globe's wireless sector.

Globe still plans to increase the number of subscribers that its network can accommodate to 6.2 million by year's end from the current 5.4 million.

Another 1,000 cell sites are also set to be put up by the end of its current expansion efforts on top of the 1,168 it already has nationwide.

"These expansion efforts are being done to manage our network capacity to accommodate more subscribers in the future," Globe chief financial officer Delfin Gonzales Jr. said.

Genio said instead of passing on costs to consumers, Globe just decided to cut the number of free text messages it allotted its subscribers every month.

Toyota wins labor row, says DTI's Roxas

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. is reportedly over the hump, with a government ruling settling a labor dispute in its favor.

In an interview, Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said he received reports that the National Labor Relations Council ruled in Toyota Philippines' favor in an illegal dismissal case filed by the automaker's workers.

Roxas said the NLRC ruled that Toyota Philippines did not violate any rules when it dismissed over 220 workers at its Laguna and Parañaque assembly plants.

Workers of Toyota Philippines under the TMPC Workers Association went on strike on March 28 to protest the dismissal of over 220 workers on March 16. The union was fighting for recognition as a bargaining agent for rank-and-file employees when the dismissal occurred.

Former Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma certified TMPCWA as a bargaining agent, a decision that the incumbent labor secretary, Patricia Sto. Tomas, affirmed. Toyota Philippines, however, challenged the certification before the Court of Appeals.

The TMPCWA said Toyota Philippines should have begun collective bargaining negotiations with the union despite the appeal, saying the labor secretary's order should have been final and executory. Instead, he said, the company dismissed most of the union's supporters who attended a rally before the labor department and hearings before the Bureau of Labor Relations on Feb. 22 and 23, citing abandonment of their posts. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Energy chief backs Meralco rates hike

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission should consider granting the Manila Electric Co.'s petition for a 30-centavo-per-kilowatt-hour rate hike to strike a balance between consumer and investor interests, Energy Secretary Vicente Perez Jr. said yesterday.

"I personally believe any regulator should strike a balance between making power affordable to the consumer but equally attractive to any investor in the market that they would get a decent rate of return," Perez said in a meeting with the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

He added that future requests for rate increases should be made in view of making these in small increments.

He explained that the idea was to depoliticize price changes of socially sensitive commodities like power and oil products.

"If they make it in smaller increments, it would become just like any other (commodity in a) deregulated market," he said.

However, he stressed that power pricing was not the job of the Department of Energy as the decision rests on the ERC, which is an independent body.

Going wireless:

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Recognizing the demand for instant communications and the ever-present need to boost productivity and efficiency in the Filipino's day-to-day lives, NEXTEL aims to change the way communication is done with the introduction of the most advanced, fully-integrated voice and data services delivered through one handset. NEXTEL has been known for its unique digital two-way radio service but with the launch of its packet data service very soon, NEXTEL will strengthen its position as the complete wireless telecommunications service provider. NEXTEL's services are presently targeted at practically all types of businesses, government agencies, other institutions and industries with mobile workforce who need to work in teams: e.g. construction, sales, marketing, media, transportation, courier services, legal, banking and the like.

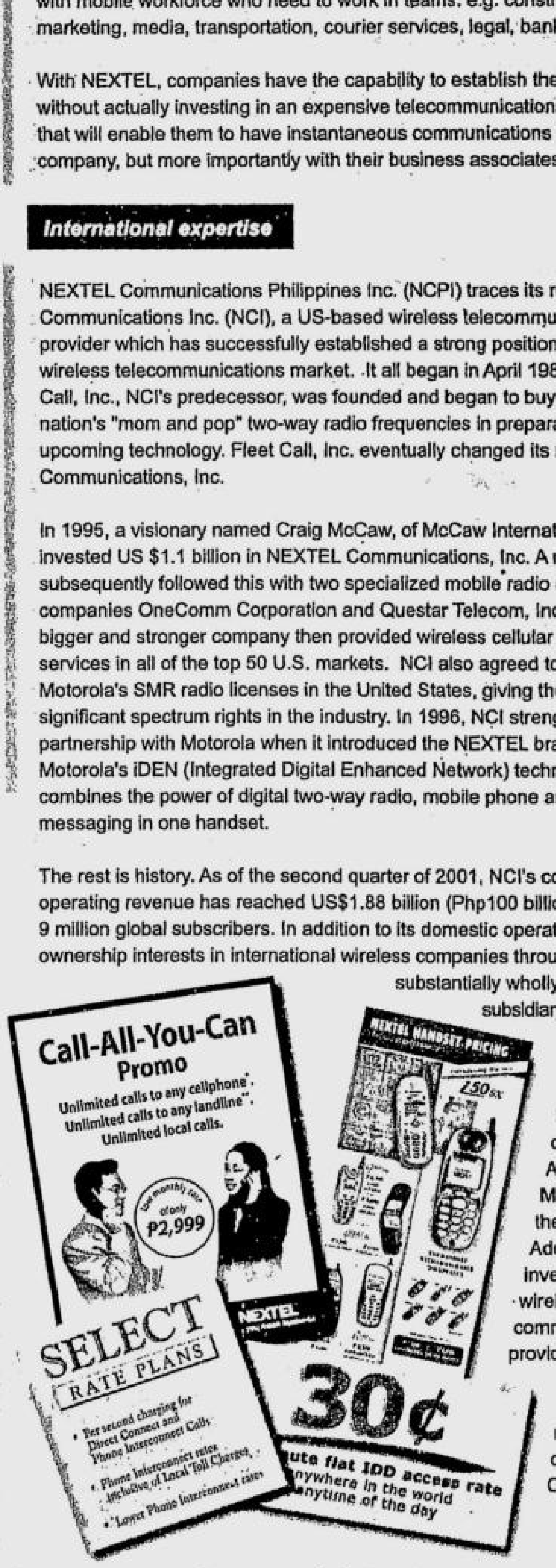
With NEXTEL, companies have the capability to establish their own networks, without actually investing in an expensive telecommunications infrastructure, that will enable them to have instantaneous communications not only inter-company, but more importantly with their business associates.

International expertise

NEXTEL Communications Philippines Inc. (NCPI) traces its roots to NEXTEL Communications Inc. (NCI), a US-based wireless telecommunications provider which has successfully established a strong position in the US wireless telecommunications market. It all began in April 1987, when Fleet Call, Inc., NCI's predecessor, was founded and began to buy many of the nation's "mom and pop" two-way radio frequencies in preparation for the upcoming technology. Fleet Call, Inc. eventually changed its name to NEXTEL Communications, Inc.

In 1995, a visionary named Craig McCaw, of McCaw International Ltd. invested US $1.1 billion in NEXTEL Communications, Inc. A merger of NCI subsequently followed this with two specialized mobile radio (SMR) companies OneComm Corporation and Questar Telecom, Inc. The resulting bigger and stronger company then provided wireless cellular and paging services in all of the top 50 U.S. markets. NCI also agreed to buy all of Motorola's SMR radio licenses in the United States, giving the company significant spectrum rights in the industry. In 1996, NCI strengthened its partnership with Motorola when it introduced the NEXTEL brand using Motorola's iDEN (Integrated Digital Enhanced Network) technology that combines the power of digital two-way radio, mobile phone and one-way messaging in one handset.

The rest is history. As of the second quarter of 2001, NCI's consolidated operating revenue has reached US$1.88 billion (Php100 billion) and close to 9 million global subscribers. In addition to its domestic operations, NCI has ownership interests in international wireless companies through its substantially wholly-owned subsidiary, NEXTEL International, Inc (NII). Currently, NII has successful operations in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Peru and the Philippines. Additionally, NII has investments in wireless communications providers in Canada and Japan, and owns specialized mobile radio companies in Chile.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Nextel in the Philippines

In its plan to expand its international operations outside the American continents, NEXTEL International Inc. (NII) invested in the Philippines given the country's huge potential, resulting from a newly deregulated and liberalized telecommunications industry. In August 1998, the same NEXTEL product that made significant inroads in the American market was launched in the Philippines. With its network covering the business sector in Metro Manila and the surrounding municipalities, NEXTEL brought into the country the latest breakthrough in telecommunications using the same iDEN technology.

As the country's first and only telecommunications service provider that will integrate the most advanced voice messaging and data services in a single handset, NEXTEL has gained a wide and loyal acceptance in a market that is dominated by telecommunication giants.

Since NEXTEL started operations in the country, it has introduced innovative marketing programs benefiting the business community and other market segments. It is the first and only wireless telecommunications service that offers unprecedented practice of billing per second for both two-way radio and mobile phone capabilities. Unlike cellular phones that charge calls rounded up to the minute, NEXTEL's per second charging enables customers to save as much as 60 percent on calls.

NEXTEL's IDD rate of US 0.30 cents a minute, established through strong partnership with International Gateway Facility (IGF) providers, is the lowest rate available in the market today. Recently, NEXTEL introduced the country's first and only Call-All-You-Can rate plan which allow unlimited use of the mobile phone feature on top of unlimited use of its two-way radio and one-way messaging. Through global partnerships with close to 60 iDEN and GSM service providers all over the world, NEXTEL has added much-needed convenience to business travelers by providing a world-class seamless international roaming capability.

From the bulky handsets that were initially launched in 1998, NEXTEL handsets are now much smaller, more user-friendly, ergonomically designed, and are enabled with state-of-the-art features not found in any other handsets in the country today. All NEXTEL handsets are now packet data ready, while the more recently introduced handsets are Java-enabled in preparation for the launch of the NEXTEL Packet Data Service and the powerful applications that will be enabled by such technology.

With the unique range of products and services, NEXTEL subscribers now enjoy the most cost-effective and efficient way to communicate with their business partners and associates anytime. Clearly, NEXTEL is fast becoming a formidable force in the rapidly changing marketplace for advanced and superior wireless services. As more Filipinos are expecting more from their telecommunications service provider, NEXTEL is ready to provide more for less cost. Thus, NEXTEL is very much in a position to change the way Filipinos communicate and establish itself as the benchmark in the wireless telecommunications industry.

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(In Compliance with RA 7041)

2 SUPERVISING AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM OFFICER (SUARPO-11; 13) SG 22 Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; 3 yrs. of relevant experience; 16 hrs. of relevant training; CS Prof. Appropriate Eligibility for Second Level Position (BARIE)

1 SENIOR AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM OFFICER (SARPO-160) SG 18 Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; 2 yrs. of relevant experience; 8 hrs. of relevant training; CS Prof. Appropriate Eligibility for Second Level Position (BARIE)

2 AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM OFFICER II (ARPO2-91; 96) SG 15 Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job; 1 yr. relevant experience; 4 hrs. of relevant training; CS Prof. Appropriate Eligibility for Second Level Position (BARIE)

1 AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM OFFICER I (ARPO I-13) SG 11 Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience None required; Training None required; CS Prof. Appropriate Eligibility for Second Level Position (BARIE)

1 BUYER IV (BY4-1) SG 11 Completion of two years studies in college; 2 yrs. of relevant experience; 8 hrs. of relevant training; CS Sub Prof. Appropriate Eligibility for First Level Position (GSD)

1 CASHIER I (CASH1-2) SG 10 Bachelor's degree; Experience None required; Training None required; CS Prof. Appropriate Eligibility for Second Level Position (GSD)

2 LEGAL OFFICER III (LEGO 3-24; -3) SG 20 Bachelor of Laws; 1 yr. of relevant experience; 4 hrs. of relevant training: RA 1080 (BALA)

1 LEGAL OFFICER II (189-1*) SG 17 Bachelor of Laws; Experience None required; Training None required; RA 1080 (Legal Div.)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

2/F Estuar Bldg., 880 Quezon Avenue
1103 Quezon City, Philippines
Telefax: 372-5008
Direct line: 410-9990
Trunkline: 372-3878 locals 219-224

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Fisheries Resource Management Project (BFAR-FRMP), Department of Agriculture (DA) invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of the following items not later than 2:00 PM on September 3, 2001.

ITEM/S TO BID:

Package I :	Supply of an Application Software Package on Philippine Government Financial Management Systems and Customization of BFAR and FRMP Project Management requirements.
Package II :	FRMP Brochure

Bid forms together with complete specifications may be obtained from Property Section.

Submission and opening of bids will be on September 3, 2001 at FRMP Conference Room.

Interested bidders are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: photocopies of Business License, SEC Certificate of Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, VAT and Non-VAT latest Income Tax Return (original copies to be shown for authentication purposes).

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MARCIANO F. CARREON III**
Project Director

(PDI – Aug. 16, 2001)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the Solid Bank Cert. #A008234 under the name of Sonia Susana S. Crisol was lost. If no contest received new cert. will be issued.
(PDI- Aug 16, 23 & 30, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ALFREDO C. AQUINO has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. # 413; Book # 343; Page # 84; Series of 1999 before notary public AMPARO G. OCAMPO of Manila (PDI-Aug. 2, 9 & 16, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JAIME S. LETAN Located at Mandaluyong City has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc 435, Page 88, Book 57, Series of 2001 by Notary Public Sofronio A. Hernandez of Batangas City.
(PDI-Aug. 9,16 & 23, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **Paz Conchita L. Enciso** has been the subject of an extrajudicial settlement on August 14, 2001, by and among her heirs per Doc No. 20, Page 5, Book II, Series of 2001 of Atty. Ana Rhia V. Largo.
(PDI-Aug. 16, 23 & 30, 2001)

PERSONAL

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"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Cor. 5:4-5

Be still, and know that I am God...
Psalm 46:10

In Loving Memory
on the
First Death Anniversary
of

YOLANDO Q.M. SULIT

(11 June 1935 — 16 August 2000)

His loving family—**Susan, Alan** and **Grace, Dennis, Leslie, Sandra, Miguel, Benny** & **Perla, Aly, Beau**—requests you, dear reader, to remember him in your prayers.

EDGARDO "EGAY" L. AVILA, M.D.

Past President —Tarlac Medical Society
Medical Director and General Surgeon
of St. Rose Medical Hospital

Now peacefully rests in the Infinite Grace of our Lord on August 13, 2001 at the age of 43.

Loving husband to **Ruth** and the best father to his children **Ion, Izza** and **Althea**; wonderful son to **Dr. Rodolfo** and **Luviminda Avila**; eldest brother to **Noli, Let-Let, Bedict** and **Katy**; in-laws, nieces, nephews, other relatives, dear friends, doctors, nurses and staff mourn his passing and wish his eternal rest.

His remains lie at St. Rose Hospital, Sumput, Paniqui, Tarlac.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 18, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at St. Rose Parish, Paniqui, Tarlac.

ETERNAL LOVING MEMORY ON THE
11th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LATE

BENJAMIN HIDALGO FELIPE, MD

who died on August 16, 1990

Masses will be said today at:

1. **The Immaculate Conception Parish Church** .... 6:00 p.m.
   Lantana, Cubao, Quezon City
2. **Shrine of Mount Carmel** .... 6:00 p.m.
   E. Rodriguez, New Manila, Quezon City
3. **Christ the King Seminary** .... 6:00 p.m.
   E. Rodriguez, Quezon City
4. **Sacred Heart Parish** .... 6:00 p.m.
   Kamuning, Quezon City
5. **St. Martin de Porres Chapel** .... 6:00 p.m.
   Benitez, Quezon City

His wife **Charito**; children **Ben Jr., Marinel** and **Timmy**, and **Manny** request their relatives, friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Engr. FELIPE NULOT DE GUZMAN

Former Department Manager of Materials Investigation and Tests Services, Department of National Power Corporation

joined his Creator on August 14, 2001 at the age of 67.

The bereaved family, wife **Myrna**; children and in-laws **Cyril, Beck, Paul** and **Vangie, Ilyn, Alee** and **Jonas, Ruth**; grandson **Olcen**; brothers, sisters and in-laws, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on August 18, 2001, Saturday at the Manila Memorial Park after the 9:00 AM Mass.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

In Loving Memory
on the
First Death Anniversary
of

FELIX S. CAIGOY

who died in the Grace of our Lord on August 16, 2000

Masses offered:

1. **Metropolitan Memorial Park Chapel** .... 10:30 a.m.
   Palo, Leyte
2. **Saint Bartholomew Church** .... 6:00 a.m.
   Catbalogan, Samar
3. **San Sebastian Church** .... 6:00 a.m.
   Manila

In loving memory of

ANTONIO ZUMEL

Outstanding revolutionary leader, unionist and journalist
10 August 1932 — 13 August 2001

Died in the service of our country and people
while in political exile in The Netherlands

We will always feel your hand in ours,
And cherish your spirit in every breeze
As we follow trails where you planted flowers
That sing of justice, freedom and peace.
Writer, dreamer, fighter —
Antumel, Tony, Manong, Nonong
You of many lives, many hopes, one steadfast heart
You showed us the way.

His comrades extend deepest condolences to his beloved wife **Mela**; children **Aya** and **Ronnie**; his sisters, brothers and other relatives and friends, and join them in paying tribute to an exemplary Filipino.

A cremation ceremony will take place on Friday, August 17, 9:00 AM at the Crematorium Daelwijck, Utrecht. A memorial service will follow at 7:00 PM at the Old Catholic Church of Utrecht.

A memorial service will also be held this Friday, August 17, 7:00 PM, at the UP Catholic Chapel, Diliman, Quezon City.

"I am the way, the truth and the life..."
John 14:6

Atty. Razon Tumbocon-Haresco

Chairman, Tariff Commission (1968-1985)
Consultant, DSWD and Senate Committee on Economic Affairs
under H.E. Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (1992-2000)
Deputy Chief-of-Staff, former Senator Vicente T. Paterno (1987-1990)
Head, Senate Tax and Tariff Office (1990-1992)
Consultant, UNDP, ADB and World Bank (1973-1986)

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace of our Lord on the 11th day of August 2001 at the age of 83.

Wife to **Teodorico, Sr.** (†), and mother to her loving children **Primalee & Leen Pauuw, Maulno "Mike"** and **Teodorico "Ted" Jr.** & his best friend **Slyvia**; siblings **Constancia** (†), **Patria, Augusto** (†), **Ciceron** (†), **Lolito, Soledad, Benny, Leonore, Carmelita, Lorna, Reynaldo, Mauro Jr., Rene** and **Clarina**; grandchildren **Paolo, J.T. & Gina, Patricia, Jocelo, Amara**; great grandson **Julian**; and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Premiere II, Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Holy mass will be offered every 6:30 p.m. Necrological services will be held after the mass on Thursday, 16 August 2001.

Nanay Zoning's remains will be flown to Kalibo, Aklan on Friday, 17 August 2001, to be held in state at Casa Prima, Ibajay, Aklan.

Interment will be on Monday 20 August 2001, after the 9:00 a.m. Special Mass at St. Peter the Apostle's Church, Ibajay, Aklan.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Sto. Niño Seminary in Numancia, Aklan or the Maria Assumpta Seminary in Cabanatuan City will be highly appreciated.

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."
Philippians 1:21

The Family of the late

LIM, SY LEE

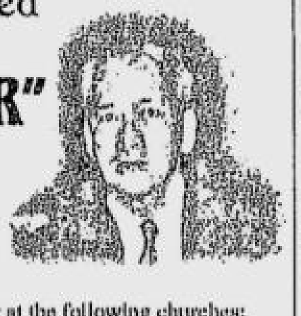
who passed away on August 13, 2001 at the age of 77.

Wishes to inform relatives & friends that her body lies in state at Chapel A-3, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Her bereaved husband **Antonio Lim** (†) and children **Josefa, Pilar, Jaime & Sabina, Lito & Luz, George & Isabel, Cary & Cynthia, Lorenzo** and **Maria** (†) request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be on August 18, 2001 at Ever Memorial Garden, Valenzuela City at 9:00 A.M.

So Lovingly Remembered
On his 1st Death Anniversary



ROGELIO "ROGER" F. BAYATON

(October 19, 1936 - August 16, 2000)
of Manila and Toronto, Canada

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered today at the following churches:

Precious Blood Parish .... 8:00 AM
Toronto, Canada
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish .... 6:00 AM
Montalban, Rizal
San Felipe Neri Parish .... 6:00 PM
Mandaluyong City
Santa Maria Strada Parish .... 6:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

We, his Family request relatives, friends and pious readers to continuously remember **Roger** in your prayers.

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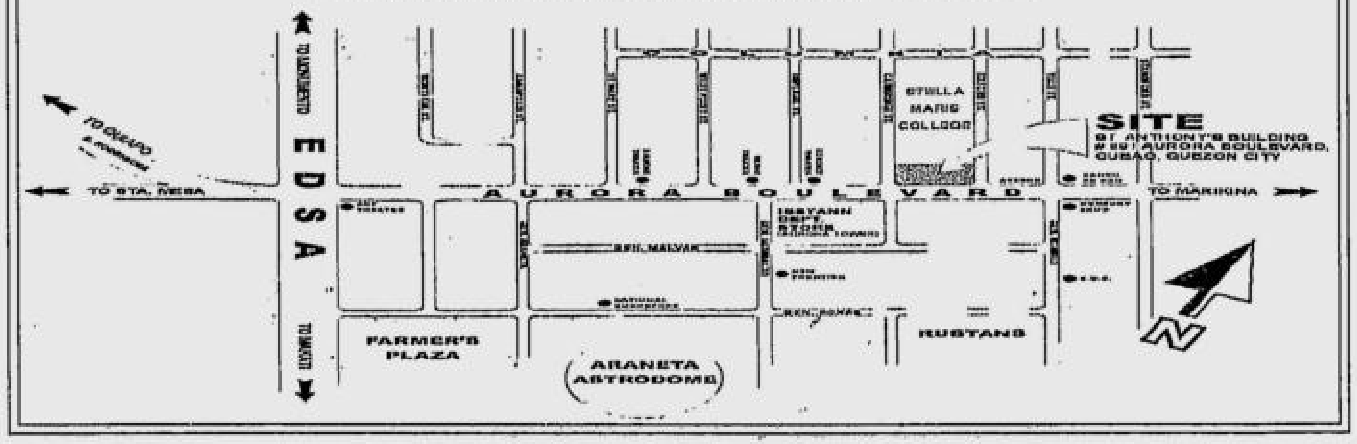

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(Sgd.) **JOSE L. REYES**
Colonel (GSC) PAF
Vice-Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Aug. 16, 2001)

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Online registration for Franchise Asia 2001 now available

FRANCHISE enthusiasts will now have easy access to information and registration to the biggest international franchise event ever to be staged in the country from Sept. 12 to 16.

Franchise Asia 2001, the first four-in-one international franchise show in the Philippines, can now be viewed at www.franchiseasia2001.com. The website provides comprehensive information on the four-day event as well as rates for early birds, regular and on-site registrants.

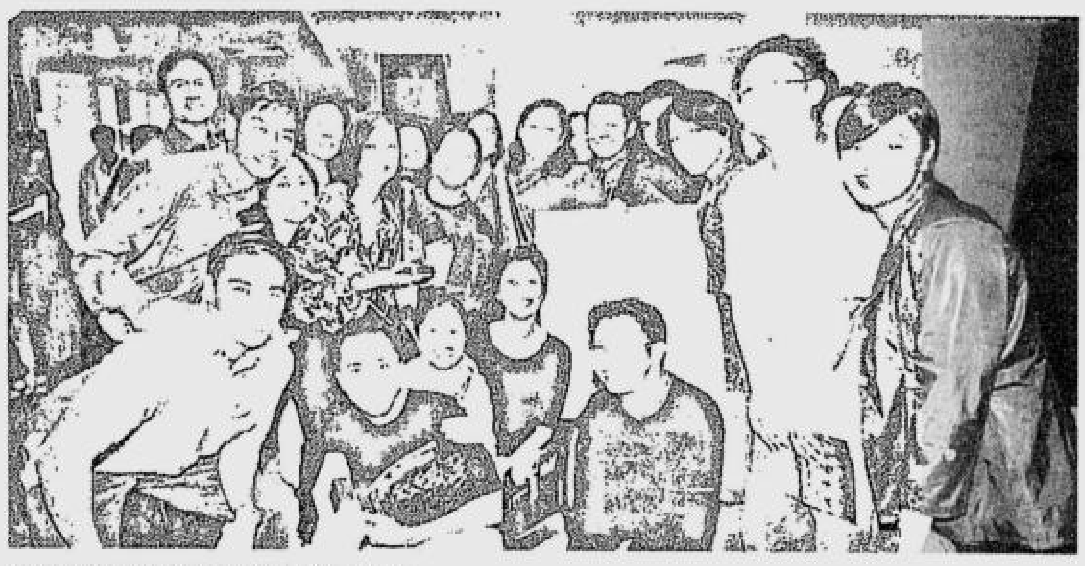
The first time to be staged in the country, Franchise Asia 2001 hopes to attract qualified investors not only from the Asia-Pacific region but also from around the world. It promises to be the most cost effective way to know more about franchising. The event represents the most important meeting place for those wishing to be informed about various franchise systems and business opportunities from franchise experts and through workshops and panel discussions.

Sponsors to the event include Jollibee, GMA-7, Francorp, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Coca-Cola, Philippine Airlines, 93.9 KCFM, McDonald's, Taps, National Sports Grill, Penshoppe, Bench, Kamiseta, Ayala Center, Store Specialist, Carranz, Montanara, Oakwood, Ad-Man Resources, SM and Entrepreneur Magazine.

Franchise Asia will feature two top-level council meetings by the World Franchise Council (WFC) and Asia-Pacific Franchise Confederation (APFC) on Sept. 12; a franchise conference which promises to be most comprehensive on Sept. 13 to 14 at the Shangri-la Hotel Manila; and the biggest expo of franchise companies and products at the World Trade Center on Sept. 14 to 16.

HOUSES FOR PANGASINAN GOV'T WORKERS

A new housing project to benefit the employees of the provincial government of Pangasinan is under way following the signing of the memorandum of agreement between Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-ibig Fund) represented by Pag-ibig president and CEO Manuel C. Crisostomo (left) and the provincial government of Pangasinan represented by Pangasinan Governor Victor Agbayani (right). Witnessing the signing rites are HUDCC chair Michael T. Defensor (second from left) and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.



CREATIVE GUILD WINNERS

The country's hothouse for world-changing ideas cornered two of the six major awards handed out during the awards ceremony of the prestigious Creative Guild's 18th Ad of the Year Competitition. Ace Saatchi & Saatchi took home the radio ad of the year award for Music One's 'Miscom', and the Diwa TV ad of the year for CRC's 'Drum'. The multi-awarded agency was also cited as first runner-up for print for Ariel's 'Hands' and second runner-up for print for Enchanted Kingdom's 'Cane'. Ace Saatchi & Saatchi also captured two special awards: best in production design/art direction for Penshoppe's 'Jap Resto', and breakthrough in category winners for print for Ivory's 'Lift' and Ariel's 'Hands'. Shown during the awards ceremony held recently at the RCBC Tower in Makati are some of the jubilant creative and account management people who make Ace Saatchi & Saatchi one of the country's top agencies in terms of creative and business-building excellence. Leading the group was executive creative director/vice president for creative Cid Reyes (standing, fifth from right).

Carinderia seminar

IF there's one food outlet that's known to thrive really well in the Philippine setting, it's the *carinderia*, the Filipino version of the western fastfood eatery. It takes skillful management of the business to maximize profit and turn it into a success.

A seminar on *Carinderia*: Pinoy Food Outlet slated Aug. 20 to 21, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. will prepare aspiring *carinderia* entrepreneurs to acquire skills in the different aspects of its operation.

For further inquiries, call or visit TLRC at 633-5709 or 633-6728, Unit 805, 8th Floor City State Center Building, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City.

BPI E-CREDIT LAUNCH

The Bank of the Philippine Islands launched yesterday the first ever virtual card in the Philippines called the BPI E-Credit. The bank's newest innovation is a BPI Mastercard which offers the benefit of online purchases and transactions for cardholders. With the BPI E-Credit, customers can shop through the Internet the easy and convenient way, then settle their purchases conveniently with the rest of their BPI Mastercard bills. At the launch were (from left) Mastercard country head Poch Villa-Real, Mastercard vice president for marketing Judith Dayrit, BPI card president Jojo Ocampo, BPI vice president Tessie Tan, and BPI SVP for consumer loans Ric dela Torre. The launch was part of activities marking the 150th anniversary of the bank.

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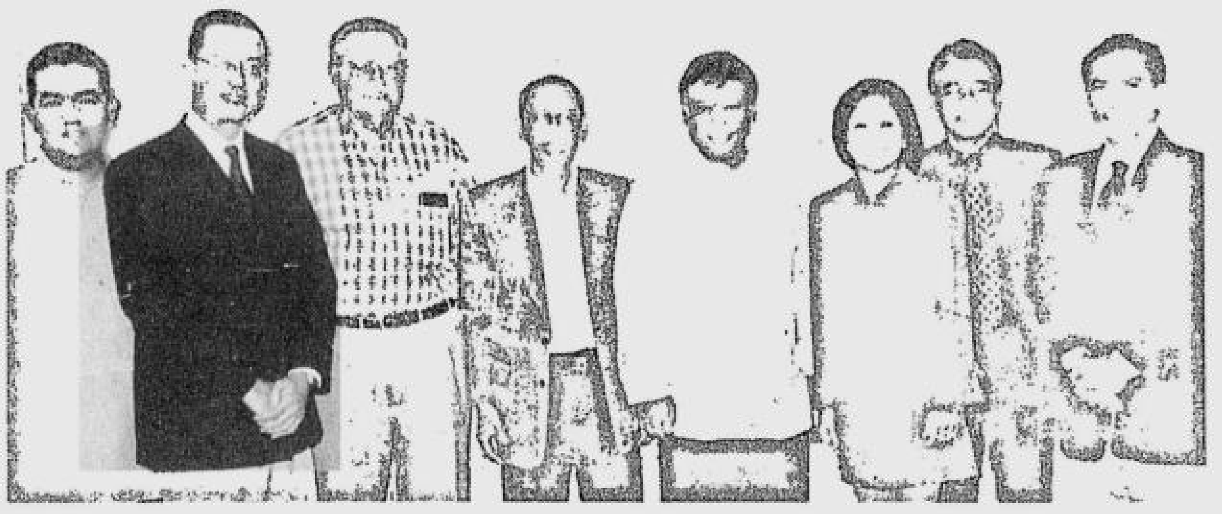
Fitness Walk ushers in obesity awareness week

ON Sept. 2, this year's Obesity Awareness and Prevention Week opens with a fitness walk at The Fort, Taguig starting at 6 a.m. The walk will be led by Mayor Sigfrido Tinga of Taguig and other media personalities, together with officers of the Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity (Pasoo) with Dr. Augusto Litonjua as president. Organized by Sanirose S. Orbeta, vice president of Pasoo, the yearly event is meant to invite the attention of the public to the health benefits of physical activity and exercise. The 2-kilometer walk will also feature Aero-Kick boxing for non-walking participants as well as fun games and raffles.

The highlight of the week will be the 7th Annual Convention of Pasoo on Sept. 7 at the Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati City. With the theme "Obesity, a Triad of Genetics, Behavior and Environment", the convention will feature prominent speakers led by Dr. James O. Hill of the University of Colorado in the United States and Anna Jacobs of ILSI SEA in Singapore, together with local experts and practitioners in the field of genetics, obstetrics, endocrinology, pediatrics, nutrition, psychology, geriatrics and exercise physiology. The convention will examine the roots and development of obesity from conception to old age, together with the modern concepts in prevention and control strategies from risk identification to diet and exercise, from behavioral and lifestyle change to pharmacologic control. Physicians and allied professionals, as well as the general public are invited to attend.

The Philippine Association for the Study of Overweight and Obesity, a member of the International Association for the Study of Obesity (IASO) was organized with the aim of encouraging research in the prevention and management of overweight and obesity, providing an authoritative voice on the subject for the benefit of professionals and the general public. Now in its 7th year, Pasoo has led the yearly observance of Obesity Prevention and Awareness Week, published guidelines for a healthy and safe weight management program such as the Pyramid Food Guide for Healthy Lifestyle and recently The Filipino Pyramid Activity for Health and Fitness. The Association also organizes and participates in symposia and scientific meetings here and abroad for the benefit of health care practitioners to be updated in the field of overweight and obesity.



PAYUMO GRACES SIRCRO MEET

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) chair Felicito Payumo (fifth from left) was the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Society of Realtors (Sircro) where he presented the achievements in the Special Economic Zone. Flanking him are (from left) Gabriel Dominguez (Fil-Estate), Francisco Zaldarriaga (Carmelray), Justo Ortiz (Zitro Realty), Cezar Yatco (Inland Property), Katrina Milo-Yatco (Ayala Land), Felipe Neri (Philtranco) and Sircro president Arnold Canaria (Filinvest Industrial). Sircro, founded in 1979, is a limited membership guild of top realty professionals in the field of commercial, industrial and residential developments.

TRIPLE F TEAM AT FUJITSU

The Canesten Fungal Free Force Team or "Triple F Team" recently distributed free samples of Canesten Foot Powder at the Fujitsu Computer Product Corp. of the Philippines in Canlubang, Laguna as part of Canesten Foot Powder's campaign to inform and educate the people about athlete's foot. Ezra Raduban of Fujitsu (center) receives a sample package of Canesten Foot Powder from the Triple F girls. The Triple F Team also visited Rizal Memorial Stadium, Power Up, Metropolitan Basketball Association's (MBA) Andok's San Juan Team, and the bowling and ice skating center in Manila. The distribution event was shown on GMA-7's morning program 'Unang Hirit'. Canesten Foot Powder, a product of Bayer Philippines, contains clotrimazole that effectively kills and prevents the growth of fungi. Aside from the anti-fungal effect for which it is famous, Canesten Foot Powder has a deodorizing effect as well, which prevents sweat from changing into an unpleasant smell.

INAUGURATION OF COCOLIFE BOHOL BRANCH

Cocolife president Alfredo C. Tumacder, Jr and branch manager Leonarda Loayon lead ceremonies at the recent inauguration and blessing of the Tagbilaran City branch office at Carlos Palanca Street. Also shown are assistant vice president Emmanuel Cupin, head of the Visayas region and first vice president Efren Yambot, head of individual marketing division. Monsignor Margarito Gonzaga celebrated mass at the blessing rites.

The Magnificat launched

MAGNIFICAT, a church and columbarium was launched at the Manila Polo Club last June 18 with bishop Crisostomo Yalung as the guest speaker.

Magnificat is the first of its kind in the Philippines. It is a church and a columbarium ideally located at the heart of the metropolis.

The Magnificat houses a grand church whose beauty alone will lift your spirits. It is built to comfortably seat 1000 devotees, it is equipped with full audio and video capabilities that promise celebrations of the faith that can be seen, felt and experienced. The church also highlights an eternal flame and 35 Carillion Belgian balls. A Marian destination, the Proponent of Via Lucis, has a crying chapel for children and adoration.

The columbarium has in it a sense of security and peace of mind that comes with the presence of Mother Mary. That is why, within the Magnificat, a columbarium was created. It is dedicated to remember our dearly departed. It takes you to a new level of spirituality, offering a simple yet elegant alternative to traditional interment. The columbarium's highlights are six apparition chapels, a virtual CD library for the dearly departed, ash vaults to hold cremated remains, and bone vaults to keep bone remains. It gives you an option to bring home the remains any time you desire. Furthermore, the columbarium is climate controlled to ensure comfortable visits. It has ample parking spaces, and speed elevators to take you to the desired floor with ease.

Magnificat Church and Columbarium is located at Libingan ng mga Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Global City. Find out more about the Magnificat by calling 635-4527, 635-4428, 635-4680 or visit the website www.magnificat.com.ph

SMART-DENR PROJECT

In recognition of the role of communication in the promotion of sustainable development, Smart Communications Inc. has joined hands with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to provide the Filipino people a direct communication channel to the environmental agency. In a memorandum of agreement signed recently, Smart agreed to provide a dedicated mobile phone number in which the public can voice out their environmental concerns. Dubbed Txt-DENR, the project will enable citizens to send text messages directly to the environment agency. Any one who wants to send information, request or query to the DENR only needs to text the DENR-dedicated number from any mobile phone. DENR Secretary Heherson Alvarez seals the agreement with a handshake from Smart public affairs head Ramon Isberto

Shrek attack at Storyland

SHREK, the delightful green ogre from the film of the same title, swamps Storyland with Shrek-tacular, fun-filled activities.

Guests at the country's most exciting indoor theme part can have a chance to watch the Storyland Advance Screening of the much-awaited movie at the SM Cinemas. Park guests who purchase Ride-All-You-Can wrist tags (the first 900 at Storyland SM Southmall and the first 700 at Storyland SM City Fairview), or buy a minimum P180 worth of Storyland souvenir items (the first 100 at Southmall and the first 50 at Fairview) get a free movie ticket for "Shrek" advanced screenings. These are scheduled at the SM Southmall Cinema on Aug. 18 at 10:30 a.m. and the SM City Fairview Cinema on Aug. 19 at 10:30 a.m. The promo is ongoing until Aug. 17.

The best part is that the fun doesn't stop there! The movie ticket also serves as an entry pass to the Shrek Party at Storyland, which happens right after the advanced screening.

Party with Shrek at Storyland, and get to meet him up close during the Meet 'n Greet sessions. Kids can likewise join in fun-tastic party activities like the Fairy Tale Costume Party, storytelling sessions, face painting, a treasure hunt and mural painting contest. A video will also show film clips and the making of "Shrek."

There's more Shrek-citing fun ahead with the storytelling series and treasure hunt at Storyland SM Southmall on Aug. 26, Sept. 2 and 9 and at Storyland SM City Fairview on Aug. 27, Sept. 2 and 9.

Enjoy a Shrek-tacular adventure at Storyland, located at the Upper Ground Floor of SM Megamall and the Third Level of SM City Fairview.

SHARP DEALERS IN TOKYO

In appreciation of making Sharp a leading electronic appliance brand in the country, the first batch of Sharp Philippines Corp.'s top dealers were recently treated to a tour of selected sites in Japan. At the entrance to a temple in Tokyo are (front row, from left) Jackie Lim, Don Benito Lim and wife Lim Peng Giok, Abenson; Lolita Tabamo and Dr. Alejandra Malaya, Paluwagan Marketing; their Japanese guide. Back row, from left, were Koji Domoto, Sharp Philippines assistant vice president for domestic sales; Manuel Go and Benjie Caro, Manson's Appliance; Sonny Go and Charles Stephen Go, Super Appliance. Not shown is Jimmy Lim of E.S. Lim Appliance. The trip included a tour of Sharp's museum in Osaka. The trip is also part of Sharp Philippines' efforts to strengthen its nationwide dealer network.

ALMA MATER MATTERS

Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management dean Dipak Jain (seated, third from left) met with Filipino alumni during a recent meeting at the Manila Golf Club. Seated, from left are Tim Renn, Ed Tordesillas, alumni club president Dennis Valdes, Cezar Yatco, Jimmiy Dy-Liacco, Olive Villafuerte and Benedict Lim. Standing, from left are Mario Fernandez, Beto Fernandez, Steve Gan, Arun Kaul, Trix Guerrero, Bunny Fabella, Laura Lim, Aleli Arroyo, Ricky Delgado Jr., Joel Limjap, Ted Padilla Jr., Robbie Antonio, Tony Jacinto, Jojo Poe, Kevin Belmonte, Chris Lim, AP Bartolome, Paeng Javellana, Glenn San Luis and Ante Dionisio. The next luncheon meeting, on Aug 21, will be hosted at the UCPB Board Room at 12 noon by Kellogg alums UCPB president Lorenzo Tan and vice president Ted Padilla Jr.

BITS Clips

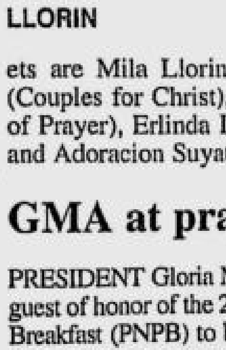
FMAT at UP

THE Financial Management and Analysis Test (FMAT) will be administered on Aug. 18 and 25 at the UP College of Business Administration, Quezon City. A joint project of the Finex Foundation and the Development Center for Finance, in cooperation with the Philippine Association of Collegiate Schools of Business (PACSB), the FMAT rates the examinee on the three main areas of competence expected of individuals holding finance positions: financial and management accounting, corporate finance and economics. The FMAT will help companies objectively evaluate applicants to finance positions and/or determine the training needs of existing employees. The FMAT may also be administered on an "in-house" basis. For inquiries, call 920-8025 or 928-4571 to 75 loc. 2156, or e-mail the DCF at dcf@cba.upd.edu.ph, hsv@up.edu.ph.

City Lite Party Nites Out

SMOOTH Jazz City Lite 88.3 jams it up in two of the funkiest places in the metro in City Lite Party Nites Out! For two alternate weeks of the month, the stress-free FM station features two of the city's grooviest bands in two sets of 45-minute shows that are guaranteed to put you on the chill-out mode. At 9 p.m. tonight, Aug. 16, check out pop band Next Level at Dish--the place for the ultimate dining experience—located at the 3rd level of Power Plant, Rockwell Center in Makati City. The event is brought to you by Mastercard and the all-new Nissan Exalta. For inquiries, call the City Lite 88.3 hotline at 631-8803.

Paco competition for parish



LLORIN

THE San Fernando de Dilao Parish in Paco will hold the "Mutya ng Paco" competition on Aug. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Cardinal Sin Building auditorium to raise funds for the purchase of a Yamaha organ. The ladies competing through the sale of tickets are Mila Llorin (CWL), Catalina Yalung (Couples for Christ), Elvira Araan (Apostleship of Prayer), Erlinda Ibarra (Ladies of Charities), and Adoracion Suyat (Areas I to XV).

GMA at prayer breakfast

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be the guest of honor of the 21st Philippine National Prayer Breakfast (PNPB) to be held at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel today. The annual prayer-breakfast gathering brings together the leaders of the country—the President, Vice President, cabinet secretaries, the Senate and House leaders, the Chief Justice, heads of the military, the church and religious communities, NGOs and the business community—to reflect on God's Word and to pray together. The gathering seeks to touch the hearts and minds of leaders for God and for the good of all Filipinos.

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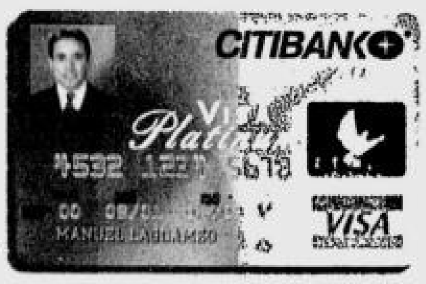
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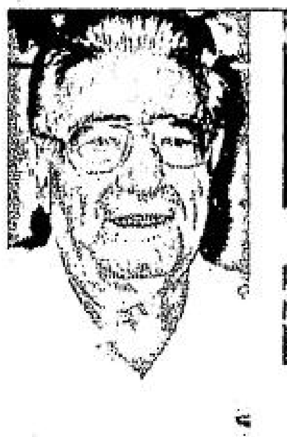
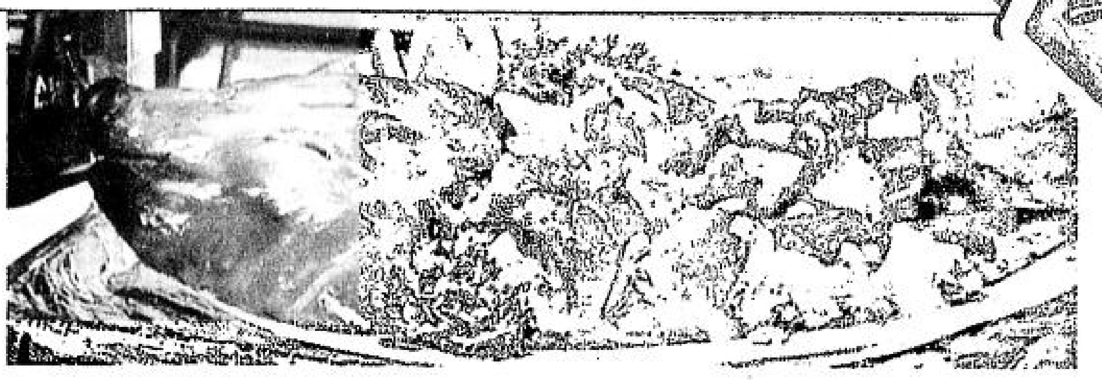


ANASTACIO de Alba



COCHINILLO Asado on the buffet

Salud, Señor Alba

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

SPANISH food came to the Philippines with the Spanish *conquistadores*. They cooked and ate it in their homes, barracks, ships, convents. Ambeth Ocampo has found an old handwritten recipe book used by Augustinian friars, and countless mothers, daughters and granddaughters have inherited their ancestors' handwritten recipes or instructions.

I do not know just when the first public eating of Spanish food began. Was it perhaps when Spanish officialdom demanded their own kind of food in public eateries? In my own consciousness, however, it began in the '50s, with two restaurants: Casa Marcos and Alba's. Both were established by former *pelotaris* Marcos de Goytisolo and Anastacio de Alba. Our more daring classmates (we were cooped-up *internas*) told us of drinking wine at Casa Marcos and watching the sun rise over the waters.

Today, 50 years later, Anastacio de Alba is still around, still running his restaurants, still giving advice, still teaching, still cooking, catering and inventing. When he came at the age of 25, his visa described him as "cook," and he has indeed been involved in food since then. His fluent English and Tagalog are charmingly overlaid with his Spanish accent; he has served all the Philippine presidents in his time (from President Quirino onward), has godchildren galore, knows practically everyone in the Quiapo Quinta Market, where his *suki* are, and in fact knows practically everyone in Manila, I would think.

I call him the father of Spanish restaurants in Manila, and that he is. My father used to take us to the small Alba's one-door restaurant on Florida Street in Ermita for his favorites *gambas à la plancha* (with garlic and chilis); *solomillo à la pobre*; *paella Valenciana*; *sopa de ajo*; *champiñones* (in olive oil); *agachonas adobadas*; *callos*; *bacalao à la Vizcaina*; *chorizo de Bilbao*; *jamon serrano*; *croquetas de pollo* and more.

You will agree that they are now the favorites of most, featured in all bars; the staples of all restaurants that aspire to serve Spanish food or Filipino indigenized Hispanic food.

Wide and far-reaching

My late husband Wili and I followed Señor Alba to other restaurants he opened and closed, and developed our own repertoire of favorites: *Fabada asturiana*; *pescado en salsa verde*; *caldo gallego*; *lentejas con chorizo*; *zarzuela de mariscos*; *gazpacho*; and especially *angulas*.

We first tasted those tiny, needle-like elvers (eels) on a seashore in Spain. They were scooped out of the waters, thrown into a vat of hot olive oil, flavored with garlic and chili, and were heavenly with crusty bread. We later learned they could not be canned, because they could not be killed individually. When someone discovered that a touch of snuff sent them all to blissful deaths, the problem was solved; they were canned and could be bought at Alba's. Now the *angulas* themselves are hard to find, so "fake" ones are in use: Same size and shape, but extruded from fishmeal in the way crab sticks are made.

Don Anastacio's range is wide, far-reaching and still continuing. The restaurant is now 50 years old, and some former classmates and I were there recently to savor old favorites. The daily lunch buffet is an absolute bargain: For P350, all you can eat of Alba's favorites, from soup to *paella* to *cochinillo asado* to desserts (*canonigo*, *leche flan*, etc.). Since I am in a wheelchair and cannot stand in front of a buffet, I revisited the menu, and chose my favorite *sopa de ajo* and *paella de verduras* (vegetarian). It was wonderful, especially since I asked that the *tutong* be scraped off for me from the pan, and that I be given lemons—and was given *dayap* instead, which I liked even better.

We all shared the Tabla de Embutidos, a plate of cold cuts like salami, cured *chorizo*, *vela de lomo*, *jamon serrano* and *queso Manchego* (from La Mancha, land of Don Quixote and impossible dreams). Once I asked Señor Alba where he cured his *jamon serrano* (which is supposed to need mountain air), and he laughingly answered: "In the mountain air of an air-conditioned room."

Strongly recommended

I would also strongly recommend *arroz à la regencia* (a rice ring with boneless chicken and a creamy mushroom sauce); *huevos à la Flamenca*; *pato à la naranja*, and what he calls *tuhod at batok*, officially *estofado Catalana*—stewed ox-kneecap (*bulalo*) and chuck with brown sauce, mushrooms and green pepper; *lengua Sevillana* with mushrooms and olives; *chipirrones en su tinta*; and *callos à la Madrileña*. And finally, his *cangrejos al Thanh Long*—the crab baked with garlic and butter sauce that came from a Vietnamese restaurant in San Francisco and took Manila by storm.

Right beside the restaurant is the Deli, stocked with Señor Alba's own *chorizo de Bilbao*, *jamon serrano*, smoked *tanguingue*, *chistorra*, *vela de lomo*, *sobreasada*, *morcillas*, *salchichon*, *butifarra*, and some imported products and wines. (There is, by the way, no *chorizo de Bilbao* so named in Bilbao; there are only *chorizos para cocinar*. We gave them the name.)

This venerable restaurant is still at 38 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati 1209; with tels. 896-6950 to 51; fax 890-4372; e-mail alba_resto@vasia.com; webpage www.alba.com.ph.

Fifty years of dining pleasures, experience in Spanish cuisine, a menu that is the lexicon of our *Hispanidad*, and the geniality of Señor Anastacio de Alba we are grateful for. Although his son Miguel is now in charge of operations, he still visits the restaurant, and cooks ("he's been practicing his baking," says Miguel). He smiled for my camera: "This smile is not for the newspaper; this is for you because I am happy to see you."

He is one of the reasons that the Philippines has the best Spanish restaurants in Asia. Don Anastacio de Alba turned 75 this month. May he keep going, and may his tribe increase. *Salud y pesetas*!

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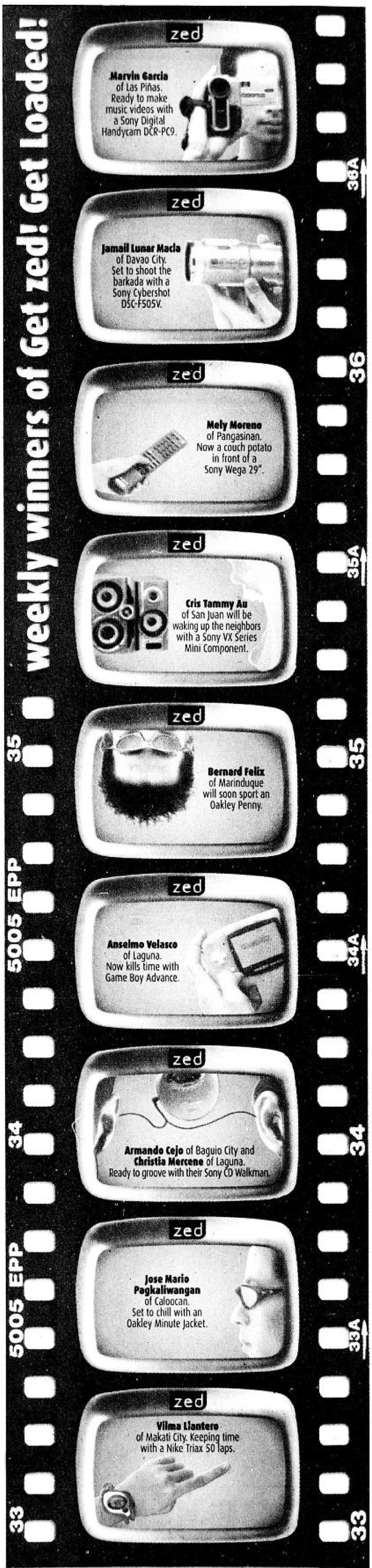
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3 You have now registered.
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Promo until October 7, 2001. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0667, Series of 2001.
32A
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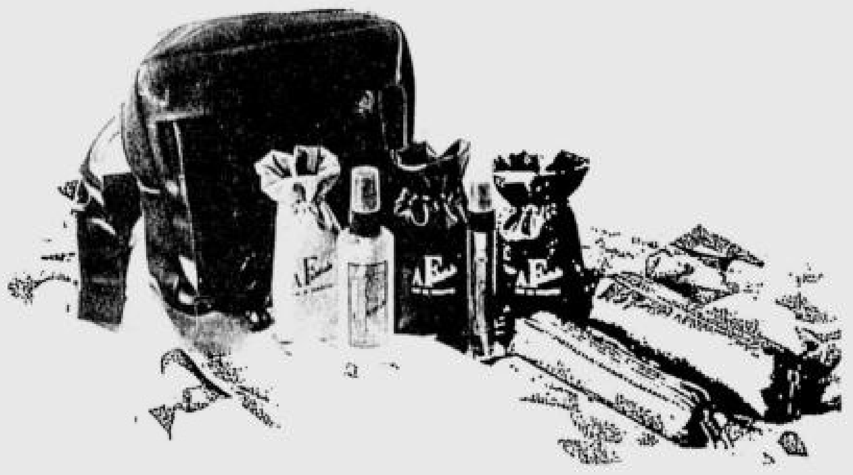
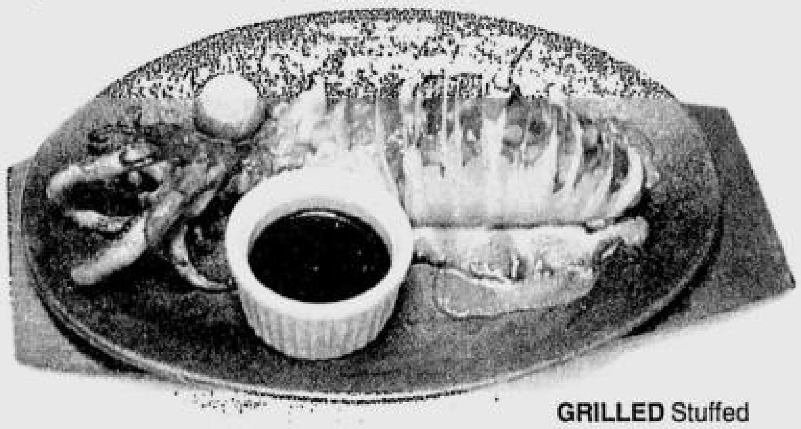


Hutu is a fictitious Waki tribal chef in the Watahari continent who was banished for 25 moons after attempting to add spices and herbs to his cuisine

WEBALINO! The staff's unique brand of welcoming diners



GRILLED Stuffed Squid

Tribal theme

BY ANNE A. JAMBORA
PHOTOS BY VAL HANDUMON

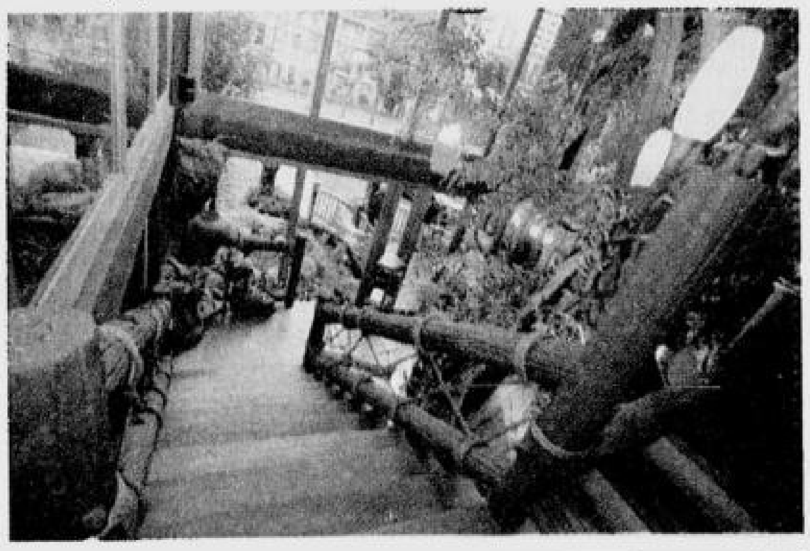
CHARACTER makes a man. In the case of Hutu's Hut, the new 300-seater tribal-theme restaurant on Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City, character makes the food. "Hutu's Hut is a character in a restaurant format," says the young and energetic owner, Phillip S. Pastoral.

Indeed, the crew is not only clad in African tribal accessories that they crafted with their own hands, but has also invented words—a language of their own for a unique dining experience.

"*Webalino*," say a row of waiters and waitresses at the entrance, before giving a customer the traditional three-claps. "It's means 'welcome.' The crew made it up. Everybody here comes up with his/her idea to complement the tribal theme," says general manager Dennis Alexis Riego.

TRIBAL/ p.C3

DINING IN THE RAINFOREST. The restaurant offers a respite from the concrete jungle with its refreshing interiors reminiscent of a lush forest.



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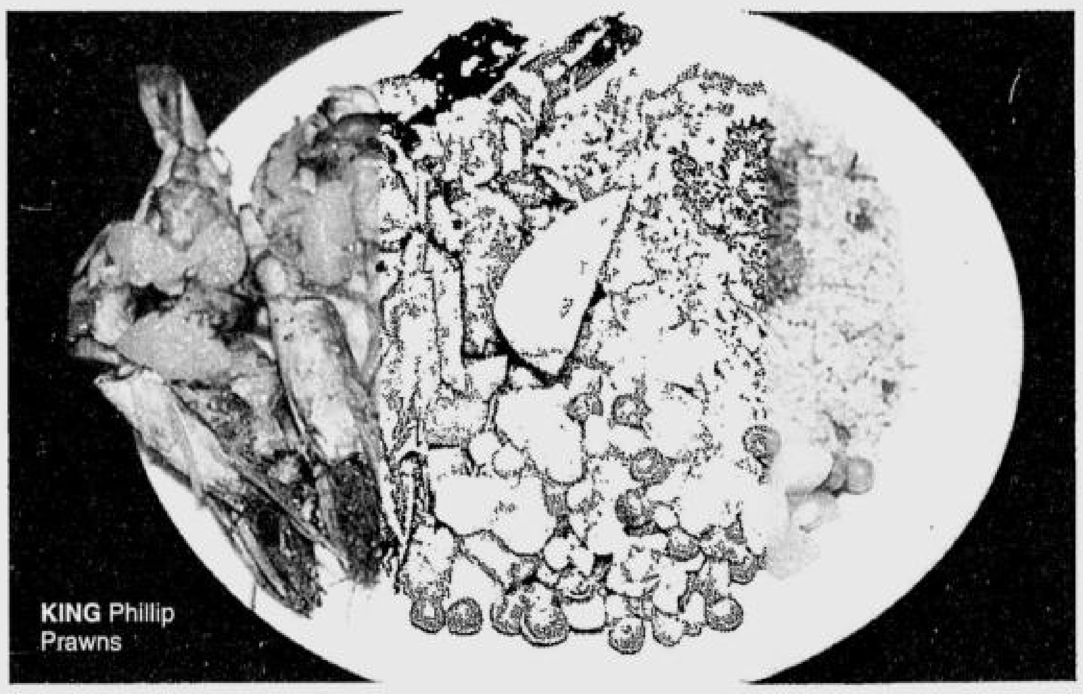
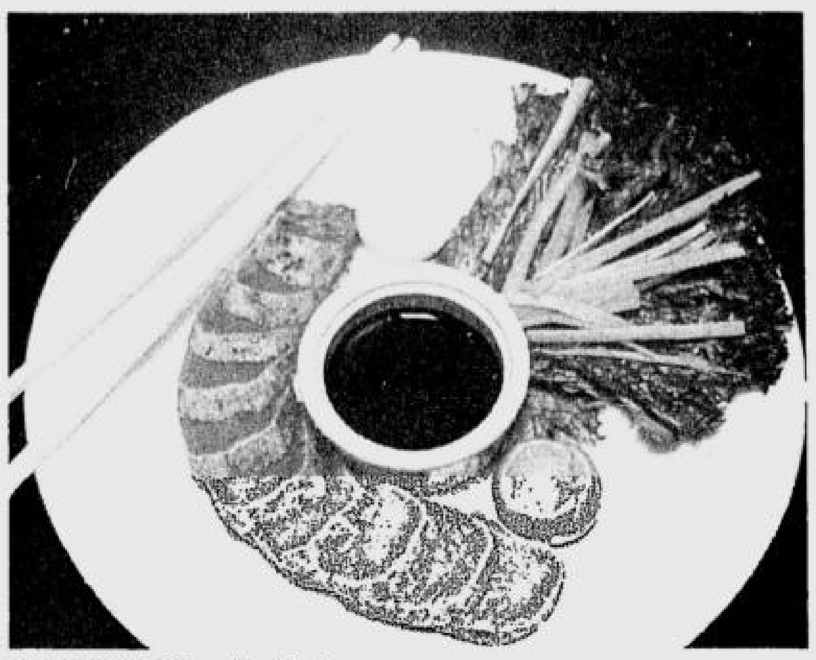


KING Phillip Prawns



BLACKENED Tuna Sashimi

SWEET FOR MY SWEET BAKESHOP
August Schedule

Weekdays 1-4Pm/Weekends 9-12Pm – 1-4Pm
Aug.15-Wed/The Best of Chicken Special 2-P800
Aug.17-Fri/Fabulous Cakes-P650
Aug.18-Sat/Special Pasta Galore-P750
Aug.19-Sun/New Bars and Brownies-P750
Best of Homemade Pies-P750
Aug.22-Wed/Simple Delicious Cakes for Beginners
P800 (Basic Cakes/Hands-On)
Aug.24-Fri/Chinese Dimsum-P750
Aug.25-Sat/Fresh from your Home Oven 2-P700
Aug.26-Sun/Many Ways to Cook in the Kitchen-P850
Aug.29-Wed/Special Muffins-P750
Aug.31-Character Cakes for Birthdays & chocolate candy lollipops for giveaway + How to make Corrugated Boxes/Baskets w/ design-P1800
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Tribal theme

(From page C2)

Ethnic ambience

And it doesn't stop there. Dine here on a friend's birthday and the crew will chant a unique birthday song, with an offering of, say, complimentary dessert, after the number. "Uniqueness doesn't stop with the food. That way customers don't just eat; they experience something different while eating good food," Riego says.

Add to that the ambience—Hutu carvings on one wall, colorful hanging lamps, *nipas*, snakes (rubber, of course) on tree trunks, a grand winding staircase that leads to the airy and spacious second floor, etc.—and diners are in for a gratifying gastronomic journey.

Yes, the servings are huge, but not large enough to scare one's appetite away—nothing, uh, hedonistic. "We wouldn't want food to spoil on the plate just because a customer could no longer take another bite, as is the case of most restaurants that offer big, American-size servings. Ours are just enough for the typical Filipino—you won't be short-changed," he says.

The menu, aside from steaks, local grill favorites, burgers and salads, also offers fusion. After all, Hutu is a fictitious Waki tribe chef in the Watahari continent who was banished for 25 moons after he attempted to fuse spices and herbs into his cooking.

"Similar theme restaurants offer the same thing—local grills. But at Hutu's Hut you can have whatever your mood dictates," Riego says. The menu is reviewed every month or two so appropriate changes can be made when and where necessary.

Order *calamares* and instead of the usual *toyo*, *sili* and chopped onions as dip, it comes with wasabi mayo. And it's surprisingly yummy.

One of their bestsellers is Grilled Stuffed Squid, loaded with a delicious blend of tomatoes, onions, cheese and cilantro. A bestseller, too, is Gratin of Wild Mushrooms and Scallops—absolutely divine—with creamed mushrooms and scallops, topped with Parmesan cheese. Another favorite is Pasta Caviar and Mushroom, an ambrosial treat consisting of lumpfish caviar on velvety cream sauce with shiitake mushroom. And there's a dish named after the owner called King Phillip Prawns, three grilled monster-sized prawns glazed with orange ginger sauce.

Yuppies—and families, too

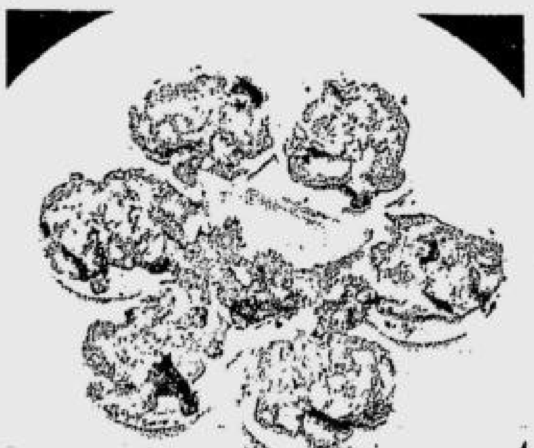
Kids have their own set of fun menu. Drums and Sticks is deep-fried chicken drumsticks served with potato croquets, mushroom and gravy sauce. If children are in the learning mood, they can have Blah—alphabet chicken nuggets with alphabet pasta topped with Bolognese sauce.

"Hutu's Hut not only caters to the yuppie crowd but also to families, especially on Sundays. We get a lot of kids with their parents having a great time," Riego says. And what kid wouldn't? Every Sunday, Hutu's Hut has an artist in the house and offers free face painting to kids who order from the Kiddie Menu. Once they even had a kid who couldn't stop coming in and out of the door because he loved to hear the crew's clapping.

They have their own twists for desserts, too. One can relish the *pastillas* mousse with cappuccino whipped cream in White Choco Pastillas Monde, or one can opt for Wow Cheesecake. The banana split is called Jungle Boat, and a super-moist fudge brownie laced with caramel sauce and topped with rocky road ice cream is called Nutty Brownie à la Mode.

There is something for everybody at Hutu's Hut—be it for the adventurous or the straight-laced. As they say, "At Hutu's Hut, it's *hakuna matata*!" That means "no worries for the rest of your day" in Disney parlance, but whatever it means the Hutu's Hut way, one has to pay a visit to find out.

Hutu's Hut is open 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., 5:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. (first floor) and 5:30 p.m.-2:30 a.m. (second floor). Call 896-8757/8763 or 895-9858 (telefax)



GRATIN of Wild Mushrooms and Scallops

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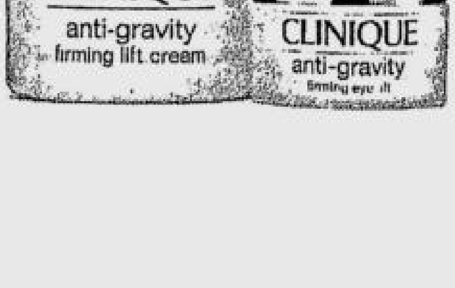

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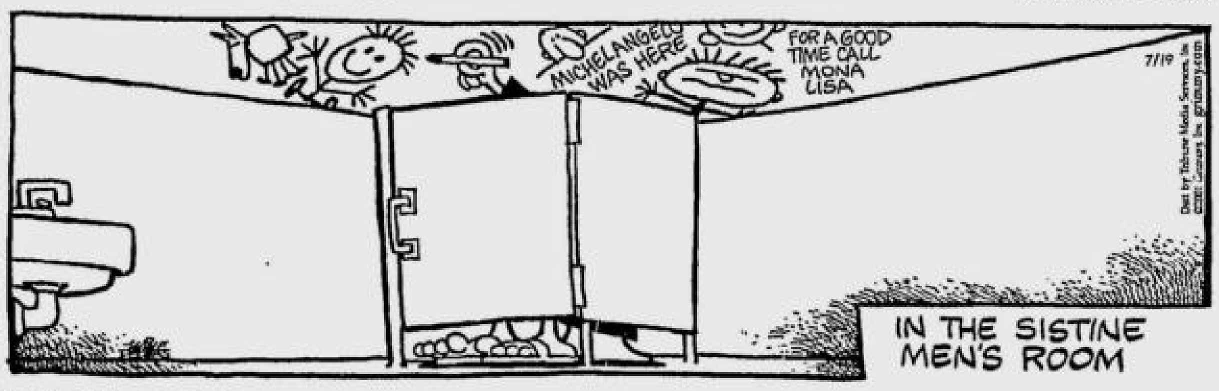
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2626, Series of 2001.

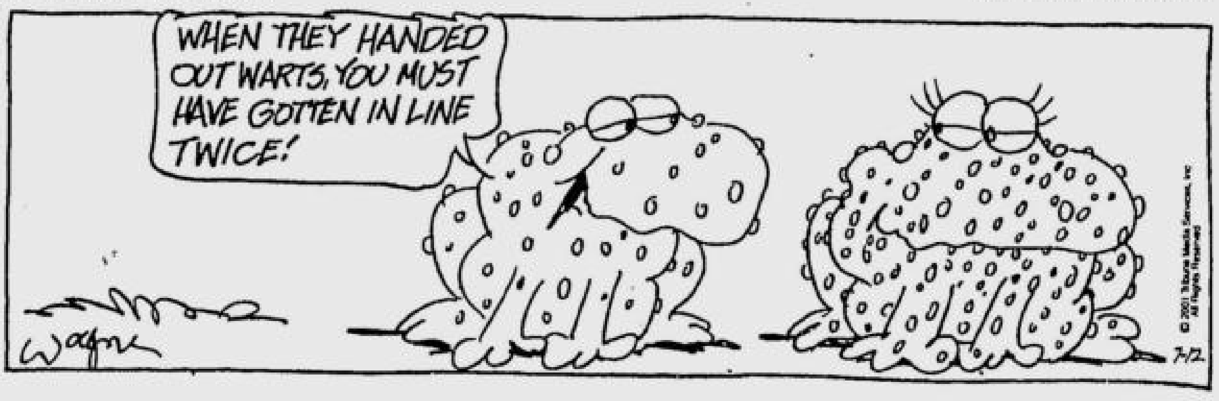
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


MICHELANGELO WAS HERE
FOR A GOOD TIME CALL MONA LISA
7/19
Dist by Tribune Media Services, Inc.
IN THE SISTINE MEN'S ROOM

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


WHEN THEY HANDED OUT WARTS, YOU MUST HAVE GOTTEN IN LINE TWICE!
Wagner
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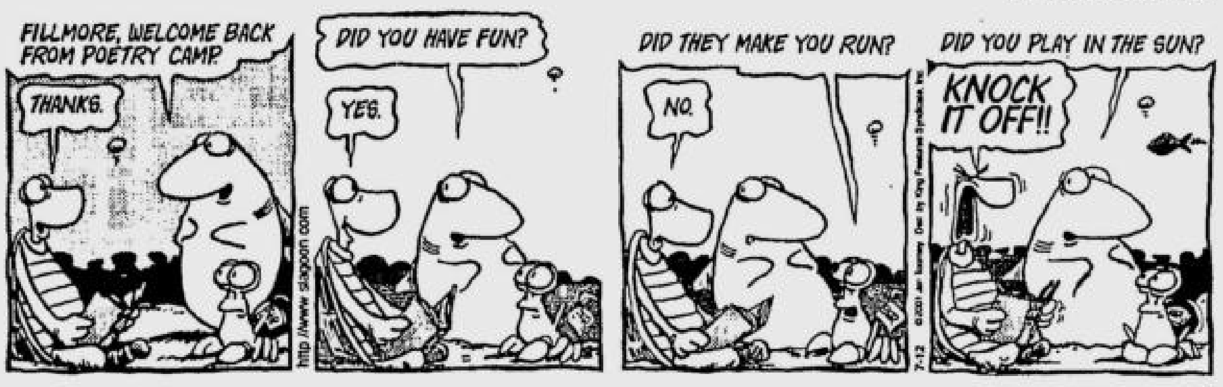
7-12

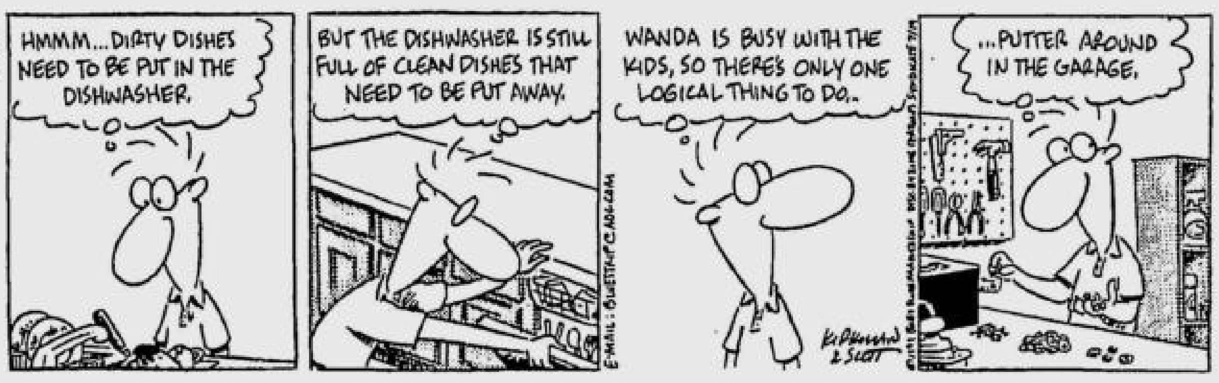
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


FILLMORE, WELCOME BACK FROM POETRY CAMP.
THANKS.
DID YOU HAVE FUN?
YES.
DID THEY MAKE YOU RUN?
NO.
DID YOU PLAY IN THE SUN?
KNOCK IT OFF!!
http://www.slagoon.com
7-12

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HMMM...DIRTY DISHES NEED TO BE PUT IN THE DISHWASHER.
BUT THE DISHWASHER IS STILL FULL OF CLEAN DISHES THAT NEED TO BE PUT AWAY.
WANDA IS BUSY WITH THE KIDS, SO THERE'S ONLY ONE LOGICAL THING TO DO..
...PUTTER AROUND IN THE GARAGE.
E-MAIL: BLUESKIDS@AOL.COM
Kirkman & Scott

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Madonna, Angela Bassett, Laura Innes, Timothy Hutton, James Cameron, Frank and Kathie Lee Gifford

Happy Birthday: You are likely to leave a lasting impression on those you deal with and on observers. Your intuition will lead in an unusual direction, but you will not regret following your instincts. Your competitive nature will bring success. Your numbers: 17, 24, 31, 35, 44, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll be far too emotional to hang around the house. Get those responsibilities out of the way quickly and move on to more lucrative pastimes. Focus on career advancement.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You need to spend some time with friends and family. Don't be too hard on yourself for past mistakes. The timing is much better now to pursue a new and lasting relationship.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep your thoughts to yourself. Divulging secret information will get you into trouble with peers and jeopardize your position. Your family will have little patience with your mood swings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may be moody, but everyone will sympathize and offer good advice if you explain your troubles. However, it's unlikely you'll follow the advice.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Love will strike at the most peculiar moments. Expect to meet intriguing individuals while traveling or visiting old friends. Don't be too quick to respond, or you may frighten your newfound mate.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You're anxious to make changes that will enhance your looks. You can meet some interesting new friends by volunteering to help a worthwhile cause.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do a complete safety check before leaving the house. Have you turned off the burners and locked the doors? Don't let a relative or family member back you into a corner regarding personal matters.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your creative energy will help you complete projects. Don't be surprised if there's interest in developing your inventions further.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let emotions cloud financial issues. Put money into sure things, not an idea that a good friend or family member wants you to back. Be smart and offer your wisdom instead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be emotional regarding a partnership. Don't live in the past; if it isn't working, move on. You've been wasting too much time on a fruitless union. Look to close friends for sound advice.

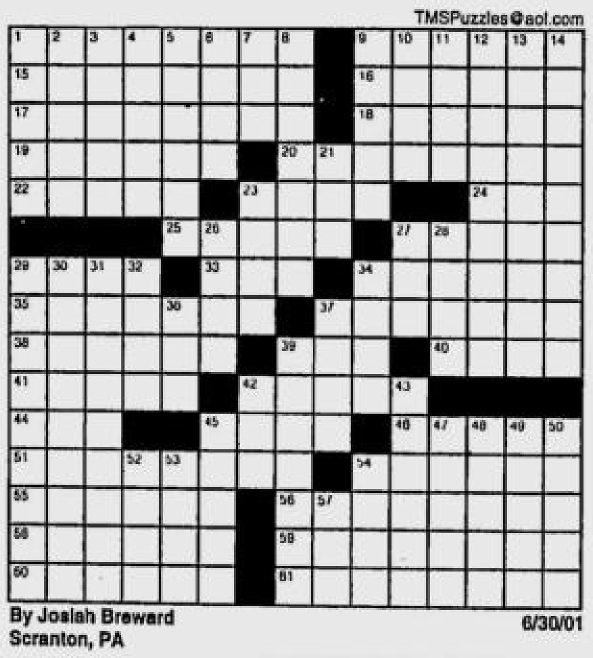
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put energy into professional concerns. Your creative ideas will provide the greatest gains. Don't let insecurities hold you back.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Travel will bring rewards. Mix business with a little fun, and you'll be surprised just how much you can accomplish. Added knowledge will give you the edge when dealing with others.

Birthday Baby: Your uncanny memory will never let you down. You are bright, articulate and extremely capable. You will always push yourself to do your best.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA

6/30/01

ACROSS
1 Vandals' signatures
9 Highland canine
15 Left in the lurch
16 Teem
17 Sanctions
18 Having a ceiling
19 With venom
20 With not a moment to lose
22 "We hold __ truths..."
23 Nile queen, briefly
24 Owns
25 Manlike automaton, for short
27 Bang-up time
29 Aerie
33 Coffee server
34 Handled
35 Skater's milieu
37 Becomes aware of
38 Lids
39 Dispirited
40 Portion of humanity
41 Housemaid's joints
42 Houdini's original last name
44 Neither's partner?
45 Calf meat
46 Eighth letter
51 Building up
54 __ borealis
55 Tiny
56 Said again
58 Mortgage condition, often
59 Estrange
60 Saturates
61 Projectiles

DOWN
1 __ Barrier Reef
2 Dressing selection
3 MacDowell of "Groundhog Day"
4 Comestibles
5 Rolled up
6 __-bitsy
7 Sock's end
8 Diabetes medication
9 Contents of the hold
10 Bassoon's cousin
11 Diving bird
12 German airlines
13 Stiff
14 Lighthouse at Plymouth, England
21 Roulette bet
23 Bottle stopper
26 Operates
27 Cross or Kingsley
28 Ogle
29 Sobriquets
30 Financial specialist
31 Separation
32 Copse element
34 Soap bubbles
36 April 15 addressee
37 Follow closely
39 Beverage company
42 Sebaceous cyst
43 Fries lightly
45 Panoramas
47 Teheran resident
48 Complete
49 Center of Minoan culture
50 Netherworld
52 Convinced
53 Wait a minute
54 Sale-tag disclaimer
57 Whitney known for his gin

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	C	R	E		C	O	D	A	S		S	E	T	S
T	H	I	N		A	L	I	C	E		T	R	I	O
H	O	L	D	A	L	L	T	H	E	C	A	R	D	S
O	R	E		S	L	A	K	E		A	T	S	E	A
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			B	A	R	K			G	O	R	D	O	N
A	P	S	E			I	S	S	U	E		O	N	E
C	A	L	L	A	L	L	T	H	E	S	H	O	T	S
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D	E	B	A	S	E			A	P	E	R			
			G	E	S	T	E		A	R	M	A	D	A
S	C	O	R	N		I	C	E	R	S		B	I	D
H	A	V	E	T	H	E	L	A	S	T	W	O	R	D
A	G	E	E		E	R	A	S	E		E	D	G	E
M	E	N	D		E	S	T	E	S		B	E	E	R

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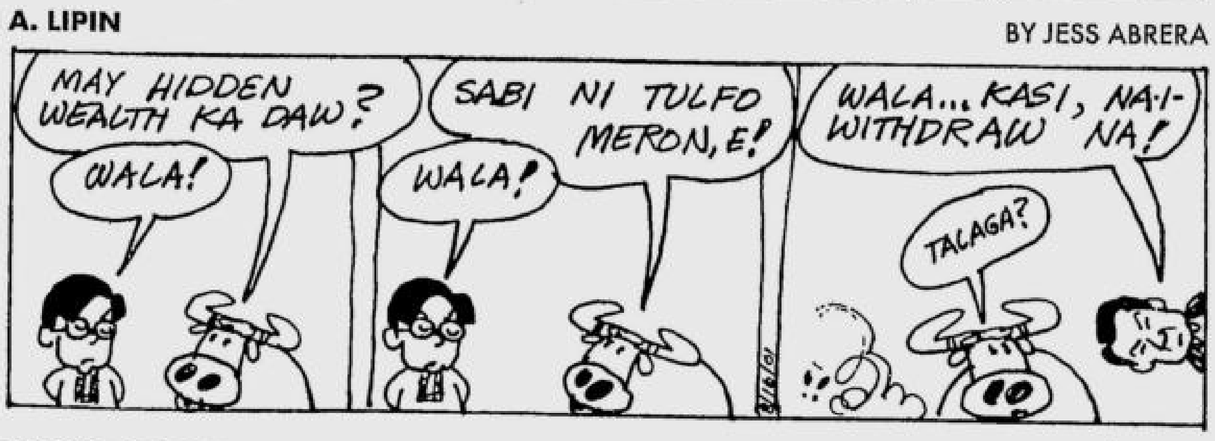
6/30/01

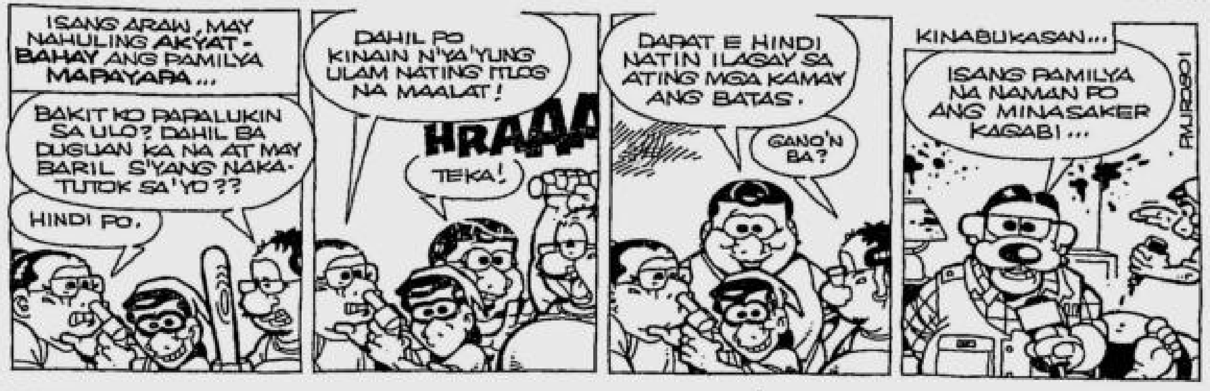
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAY HIDDEN WEALTH KA DAW?
WALA!
SABI NI TULFO MERON, E!
WALA!
WALA... KASI, NA-I-WITHDRAW NA!
TALAGA?

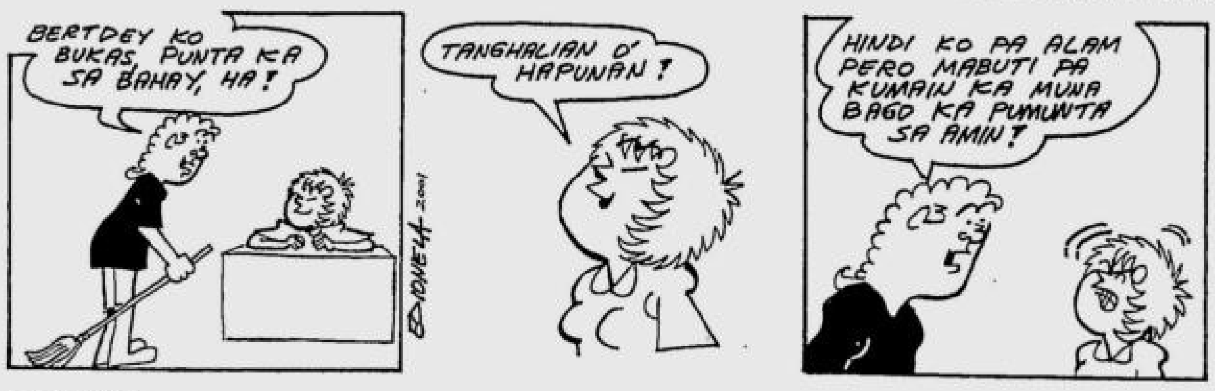
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ISANG ARAW, MAY NAHULING AKYAT-BAHAY ANG PAMILYA MAPAYAPA...
BAKIT KO PAPALUKIN SA ULO? DAHIL BA DUGUAN KA NA AT MAY BARIL S'YANG NAKA-TUTOK SA'YO??
HINDI PO.
DAHIL PO KINAIN N'YA 'YUNG ULAM NATING ITLOG NA MAALAT!
HRAAA
TEKA!
DAPAT E HINDI NATIN ILAGAY SA ATING MGA KAMAY ANG BATAS.
GANO'N BA?
KINABUKASAN...
ISANG PAMILYA NA NAMAN PO ANG MINASAKER KAGABI...
PMJR2001

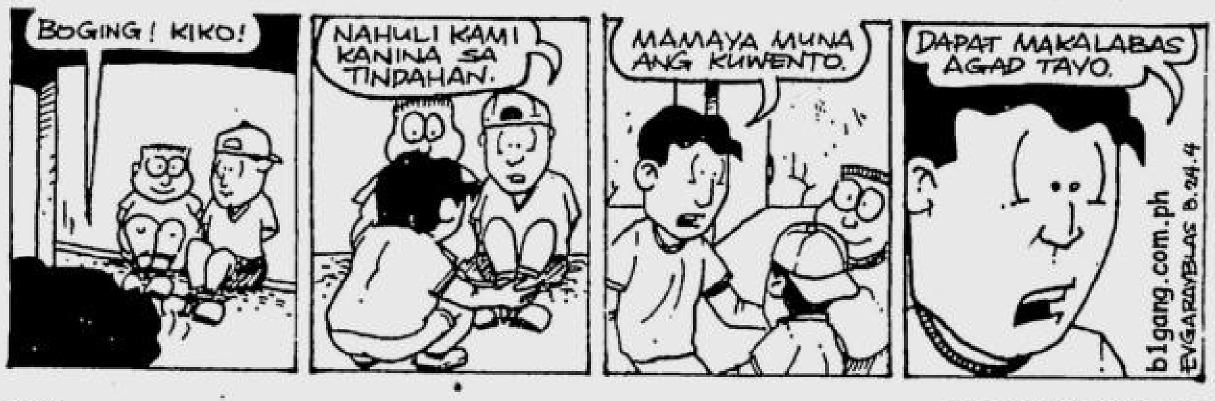
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BERTDEY KO BUKAS, PUNTA KA SA BAHAY, HA!
TANGHALIAN O' HAPUNAN!
HINDI KO PA ALAM PERO MABUTI PA KUMAIN KA MUNA BAGO KA PUMUNTA SA AMIN!
DIONELA 2001

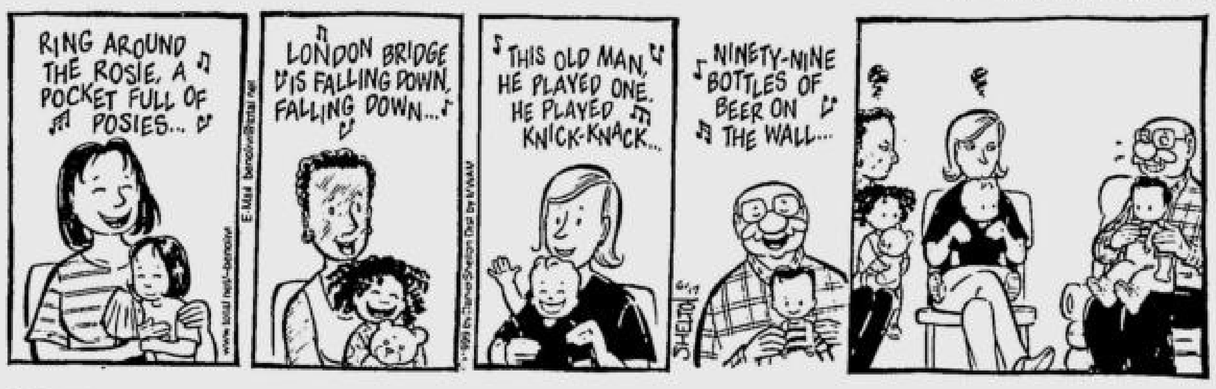
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


BOGING! KIKO!
NAHULI KAMI KANINA SA TINDAHAN.
MAMAYA MUNA ANG KUWENTO.
DAPAT MAKALABAS AGAD TAYO.
b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS 8.24.4

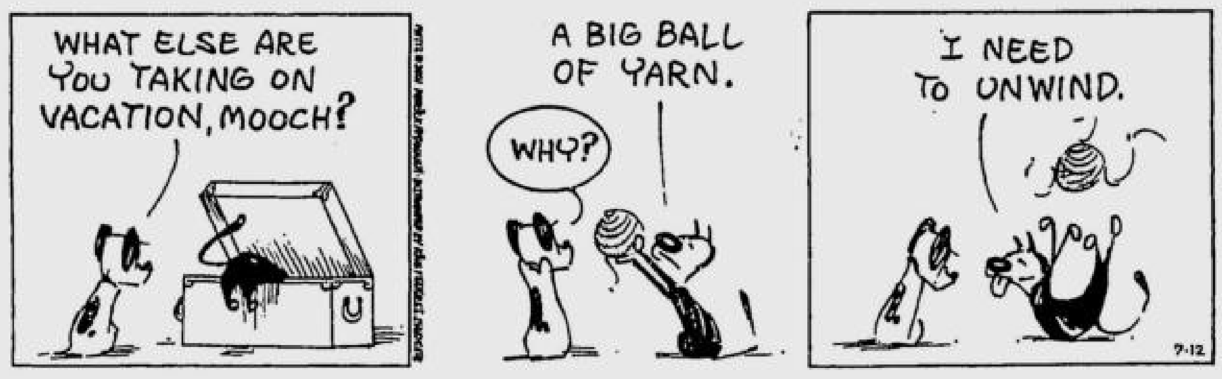
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


RING AROUND THE ROSIE, A POCKET FULL OF POSIES...
LONDON BRIDGE IS FALLING DOWN, FALLING DOWN...
THIS OLD MAN, HE PLAYED ONE. HE PLAYED KNICK-KNACK...
NINETY-NINE BOTTLES OF BEER ON THE WALL...
SHELTON

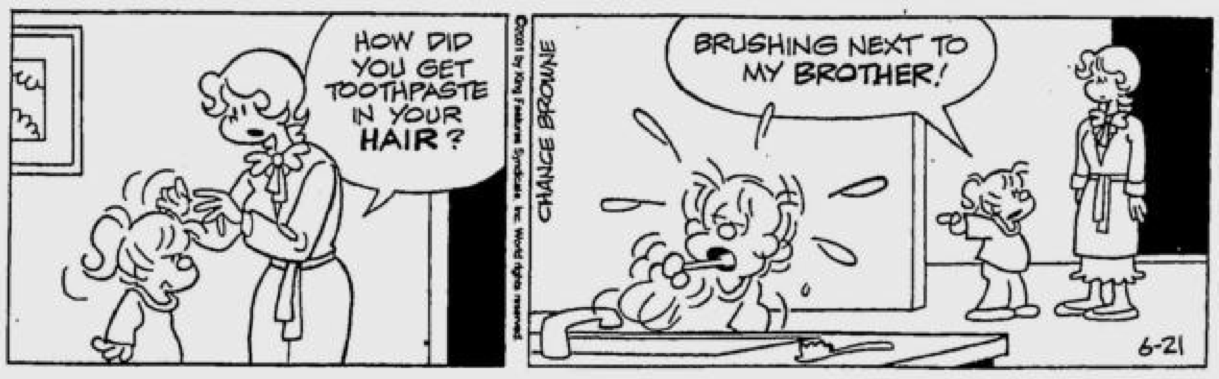
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT ELSE ARE YOU TAKING ON VACATION, MOOCH?
WHY?
A BIG BALL OF YARN.
I NEED TO UNWIND.
7-12

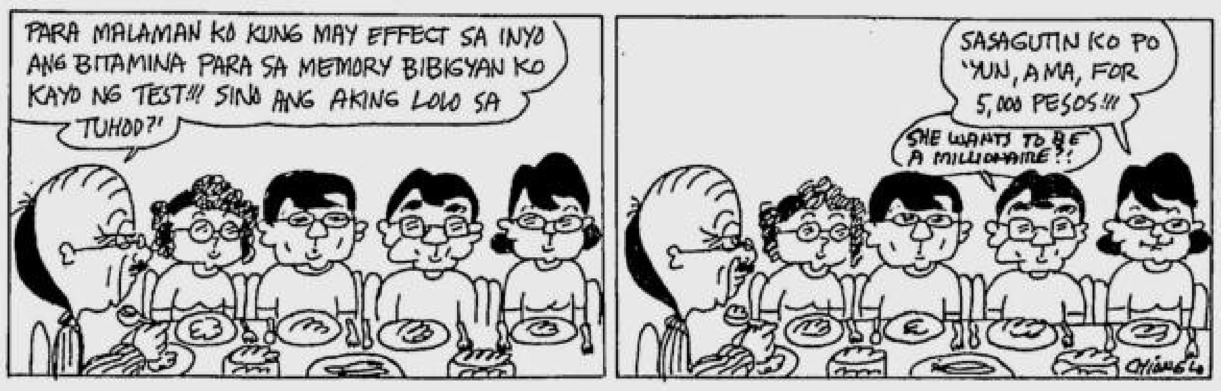
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


HOW DID YOU GET TOOTHPASTE IN YOUR HAIR?
CHANCE BROWNE
BRUSHING NEXT TO MY BROTHER!
6-21

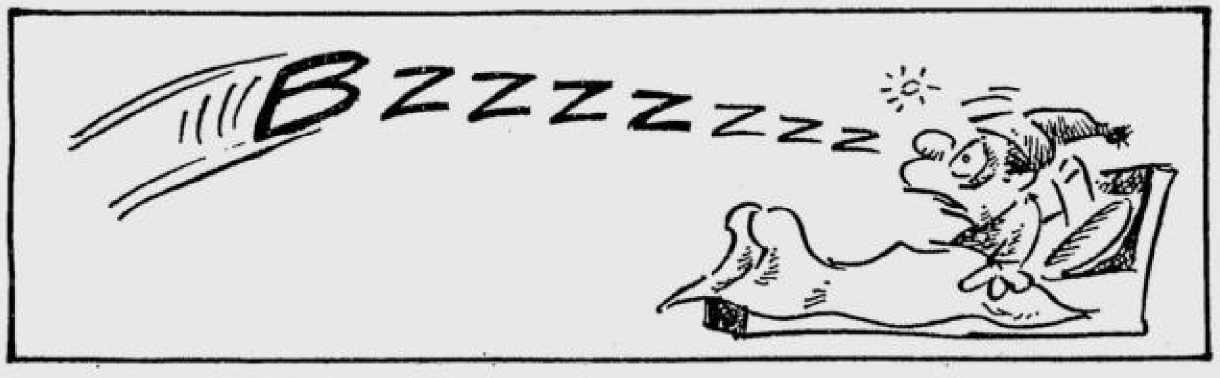
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PARA MALAMAN KO KUNG MAY EFFECT SA INYO ANG BITAMINA PARA SA MEMORY BIBIGYAN KO KAYO NG TEST!!! SINO ANG AKING LOLO SA TUHOD?!
SASAGUTIN KO PO 'YUN, AMA, FOR 5,000 PESOS!!!
SHE WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING



Hollywood's favorite pastry chef dazzles at Fernando's

DINING OUT

PINOY pastry chef Buddy Trinidad, a certified grand master of desserts, will be the featured guest chef at Rockwell Club's Fernando's fine dining restaurant until Aug. 31.

Trinidad's specialties this month are Individual Pear Tarte Tatin with Vanilla Ice Cream, Baked Manila, Apple Crisp, Tropical Rice Pudding Malagkit, Chocolate Walnut Crunch, Tahitian Vanilla Creme Brulée, Decadent Chocolate Flourless Cake, Warm Chocolate Filled Beignets, Grand Marnier Soufflé, Mad Banana Split, Señorita Banana Soufflé and Fondue for Two.

CAFÉ BERRIO introduces its new lunch buffet, available Monday to Friday from 12 nn-2:30 p.m. Executive chef Rick Abasta creates a selection of cold dishes, including Cucumber and White Radish Salad, Spicy Squid and Green Papaya Salad, Mozzarella Salad with grapes and peppers, White Beans Salad with feta cheese and sun-dried tomatoes and Eggplant Salad à la Romana. Entrées include Seafood Kare-kare, Hungarian Goulash, Braised Tofu with *bokchoy* and mushrooms, Beef Pizzaiola, Roast Pork with blue cheese and walnuts, Pork Tonkatsu and Grilled Snapper Picatta. Discovery Suites is at 25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig. Call 635-2222.

HOTEL INTER-CONTINENTAL holds "Bordelaise Food Festival" at the Prince Albert Rotisserie until Aug. 25. Chef Cyrille Soenen whips up his own version of cannelle, a favorite Bordelaise baked dessert. Another delectable creation is duck liver terrine cooked in chicken stock then laced with suger apple (*atis*) jelly. Call 819-0645.

DOMINO'S offers four flavors in one Big Family pizza with Quattro, the latest innovation from Domino's Pizza. Delight in Pepperoni Mushroom, Beef 'n' Onion Feast, Spicy Tuna and Hawaiian in one Big Family hand tossed pizza for only P440. Bring your pizza satisfaction to the fourth power with Domino's Quattro por Quattro combo offer. Get the new Quattro Pizza with two Baked Spaghetti and Two Apple Crumble plus 1.5 XL Coke. The promo runs until Aug. 19.

EDSA SHANGRI-LA'S Inaho Tei treats noodle lovers to a wide selection of *soba* and *udon* specialties in addition to the all-time Japanese favorites of the à la carte menu. There are over 30 kinds of *soba* (buck wheat) and *udon* (wheat) noodles prepared in a variety of ways. The festival runs until Aug. 31 during lunch and dinner. Inaho Tei is at the Mezzanine of Edsa Shangri-La's Tower Wing. Call 633-8888.

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA presents a dim sum lunch until Aug. 31, prepared by dim sum master Yip Kam Wing. Specialties include Shang Palace dishes such as Steamed Shark's Fin and Seafood Dumplings, Deep-Fried Mashed Taro Stuffed with Scallop and Superior Har Gao. The menu also offers the chef's original creations like Gindara Fish Balls Stuffed in Bean Curd Skin, Supreme Sio Mai Quian Loong-Style and Triangular Barbecue Chicken Pie. Call 814-0448 or 813-8888 local 7588 and 7599.

CHOPSTIX on Wilson Street, San Juan holds a dim sum buffet promo for P188 daily from 11 a.m.-12 mn. The buffet includes pork *siomai*, shark's fin dumpling, shrimp dumpling, chicken feet, spareribs, noodles, congee, rice toppings and roastings. To add more variety to the menu, Chopstix also serves Korean dishes and Japanese specialties. Call 726-8472.

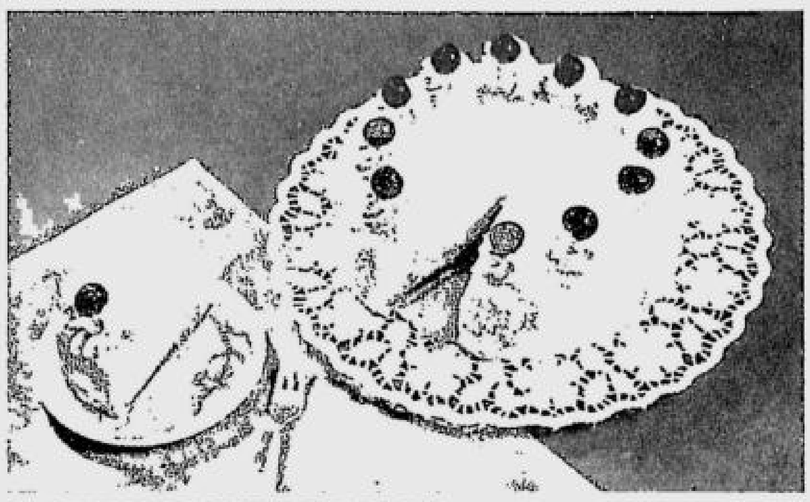
ITALIANNI'S Restaurant in Greenbelt, Makati City has just come up with four new *ravioli* dishes and an appetizer to tickle your taste buds. The Italian Sausage Ravioli is stuffed with crumbled Italian sausage and three cheeses; the Four-Cheese Ravioli, made with fragrant puttanesca sauce spiced with capers, black olives and basil; the Sun-dried Tomato and Artichoke Ravioli that's served in a savory sun-dried tomato pesto cream sauce; and Shrimp Mascarpone Ravioli, filled with baby shrimps, diced red bell peppers, garlic and Mascarpone cheese. Italianni's also introduces a perfect meal starter, the Angel Hair Crab Cakes. Call 892-2897 and 757-1323.

OUTBACK Restaurant's "Billabong Mates" offers a perfect double deal for only P290. Guests can enjoy Outback's Kookabura Fingers with a bucket of their favorite local beer. Visit the Outback branches at Glorietta 4, Makati City; Libis, QC; and Alabang Town Center.

BUMA GRILL AND BAR offers "Buma Heavies," which include Buma Chicken Lechon, Pork Barbecue, Sizzling Sisig and Grilled Pampano, Tuna Belly and Blue Marlin. Buma is located at the corner of Dao and Kamagong Streets, Makati City. Call 896-2116/1939/6554.

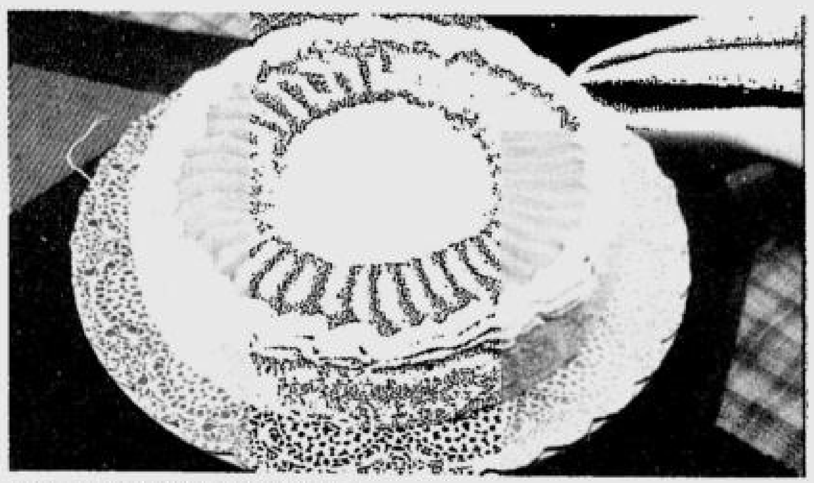
CHEF & BREWER RESTAURANT at the AIC Gold Tower Building on Emerald Avenue corner Sapphire Street, Ortigas Center, offers pork *sisig*, *lengua* and chicken *sisig*. They also have Blue Marlin Salpicao aside from the usual beef *salpicao*.

PARK Avenue Dessert Corp. president and pastry chef par excellence Buddy Trinidad at Fernando's



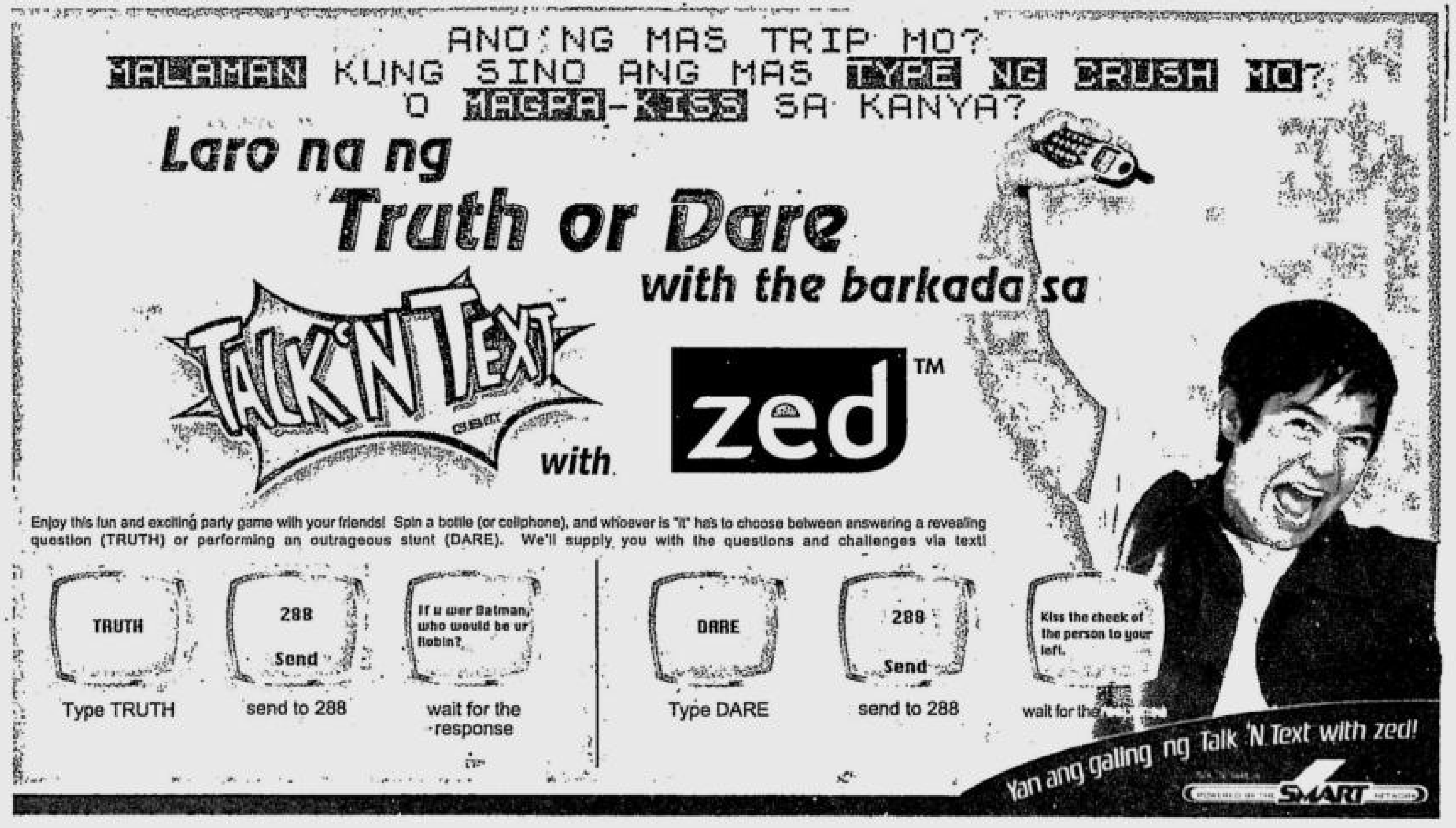
MACAPUNO PANDAN CAKE

Macapuno Pandan Cake, flavored with pure *pandan* juice and topped with *macapuno*, whipped cream and cherries, is cake of the month. Available at the Maxim's Pastry Shop, G/F Lobby, Manila Midtown Hotel. Call 526-7001 local 6561.

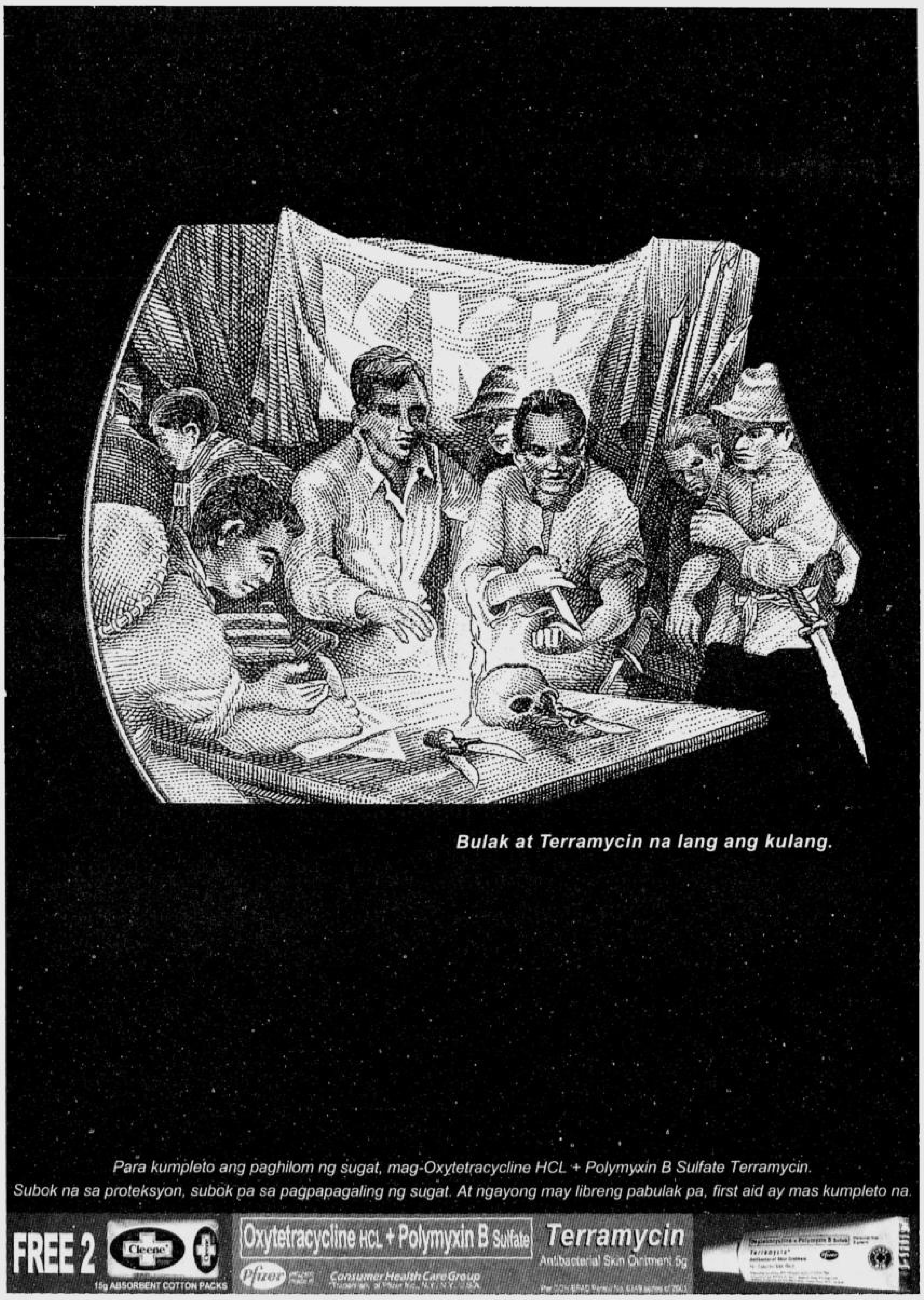


MANGO CREAM TORTE

Sweet temptations at Cravings for August include Mango Cream Torte, a dreamy mango cheesecake treat with a sponge base and topped with ripe mango slices. Cravings branches are located at Greenhills, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Robinsons Place-Ermita, Robinsons Galleria, Greenbelt Mall, Asturia Street near UST and Festival Mall.



ANO'NG MAS TRIP MO?
MALAMAN KUNG SINO ANG MAS TYPE NG CRUSH MO?
O MAGPA-KISS SA KANYA?
Laro na ng
Truth or Dare
with the barkada sa
TALK 'N TEXT with zed™
Enjoy this fun and exciting party game with your friends! Spin a bottle (or cellphone), and whoever is "it" has to choose between answering a revealing question (TRUTH) or performing an outrageous stunt (DARE). We'll supply you with the questions and challenges via text!
TRUTH — Type TRUTH
288 Send — send to 288
If u wer Batman, who would be ur Robin? — wait for the response
DARE — Type DARE
288 Send — send to 288
Kiss the cheek of the person to your left. — wait for the
Yan ang galing ng Talk 'N Text with zed!
SMART



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Subok na sa proteksyon, subok pa sa pagpapagaling ng sugat. At ngayong may libreng pabulak pa, first aid ay mas kumpleto na.
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Buy 1 Take 1
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KYK Tools
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Official Basketball
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SM Bonus Top Round
P155*/kg
*Subject to change without prior notice.

Monterey Pork Cubes
P125*/kg
*Subject to change without prior notice.

SM Bonus Camto
P110*/kg
*Subject to change without prior notice.

Monterey Sinigang Cut
P90*/kg
*Subject to change without prior notice.

SM Bonus Short Ribs
P102*/kg
*Subject to change without prior notice.

Monterey Beef Shank
P110*/kg
*Subject to change without prior notice.

Fresh Buko
P9* Ea
*Subject to change without prior notice.

Avocado
P25*/kg
*Subject to change without prior notice.

Seedless Watermelon
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*Subject to change without prior notice.

SM Bonus Salted Eggs
Pack of 8's
P46/pack

Oven Fresh Pan de Sal 20's
P37/pack

Tiffany Dinner Roll
w/ Free Hamburger Bun
P25/pack

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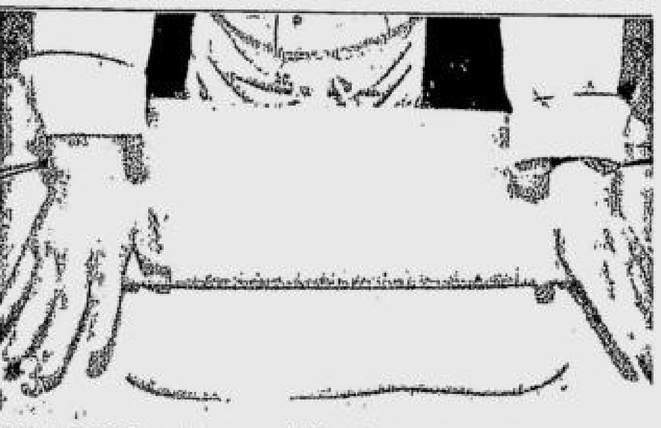
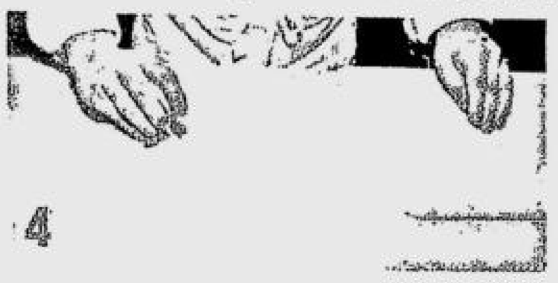
IN A KITCHENAID mixing bowl, put all the ingredients, except butter. With a dough hook attachment, mix the dough for two minutes at low speed (no. 2) and fast for another seven minutes (no. 4) until the dough is elastic and pulls away from sides of bowl in stretchy strands.

COVER and let rise in a warm place until doubled (1½ hours). Scrape dough and transfer onto a baking sheet or bowl; cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until very cold (about 30 minutes).



ON A COOL surface, sprinkle about 2 tbsp flour and roll out the dough to form a rectangle about ¼-inch thick.



CUT butter into thin slices and arrange them on center 1/3 of dough rectangle, slightly overlapping

A whole lot of folding and rolling

By Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Johnny Villena

MAKING croissants at home isn't as difficult as you think. The delicate, flaky, crisp quality of the croissant results from the layering of butter in the dough.

Johnlu Koa of French Baker says the secret to achieving a really flaky product is in the folding and rolling process, where you insert thin slices of butter between layers of dough. The rolled dough is spread with softened butter, folded to enclose the butter, rolled out to compress the layers together and folded once again. "This is done so that the pastry will have enough layers to puff up handsomely," says Johnlu, who recently opened an outlet at SM Sucat, the 23rd French Baker in the country. "This folding and rolling-out sequence must be repeated twice or thrice."

To allow the dough to relax after each sequence of rolling and folding, it must be left to rest for an hour. During the resting periods, the dough should be kept in the ref so that the butter remains firm enough to separate the layers of dough. Even with this precaution, the butter can easily become too soft, so the dough is best handled on a cool work surface, such as marble. If you only have a wooden board, you can make it cool in the ref or freezer.

Johnlu notes that making croissants requires the application of many techniques. "Rolling and folding properly takes practice; it takes professional skill," he says. So, beginners are in for a trial-and-error experience. But here's a tip: don't press the dough too hard to avoid tearing the dough.

If you like, you can put fillings, such as ham and cheese, fruit jam or chocolate, before rolling up the dough.

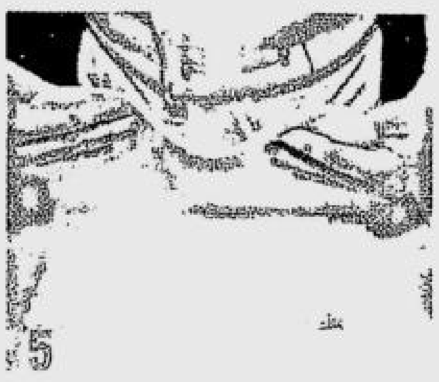
Preparation takes about three hours plus rising time. Serve croissants warm, or cool croissants to serve later. Reheat if desired.

Ingredients:
500 g all-purpose flour
10 g instant yeast (dry)
300 g full-cream milk
10 g iodized salt
50 g refined sugar
1 bar (or 225 g) butter
1 egg beaten with 1 tbsp milk

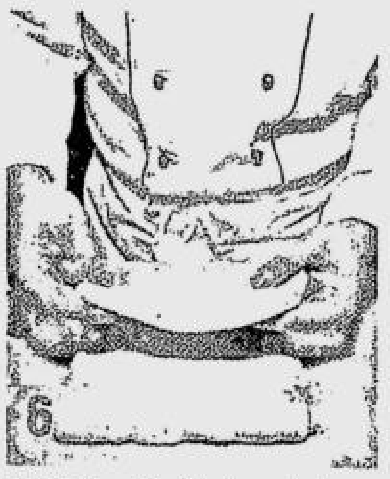
Makes 12 servings.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

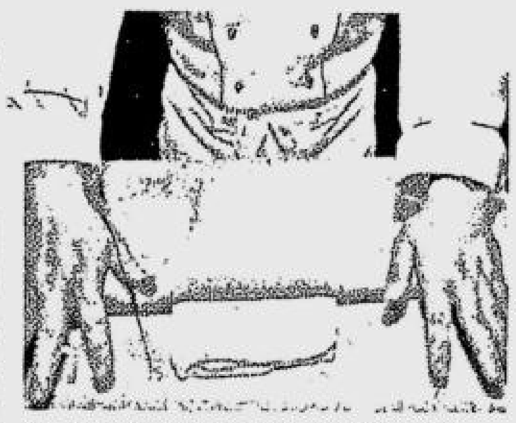
STEP-BY-STEP



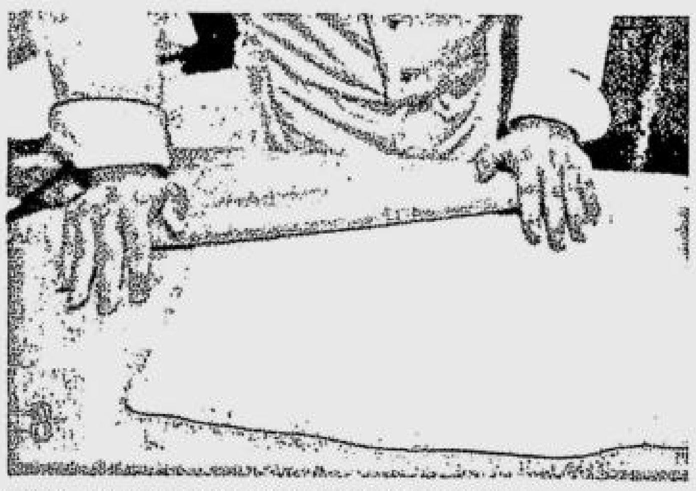
FOLD each extending side over butter and roll out again until rectangle is about ¼-inch thick. To prevent sticking, you may occasionally flour the work surface but use as little flour as possible.



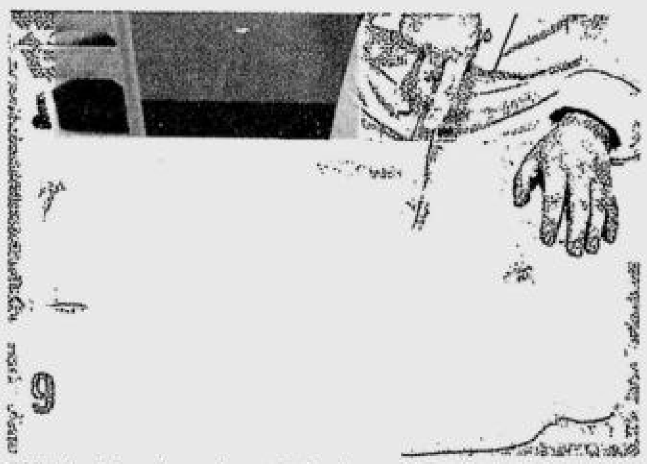
FOLD dough in thirds again to make a square out of the rectangle.



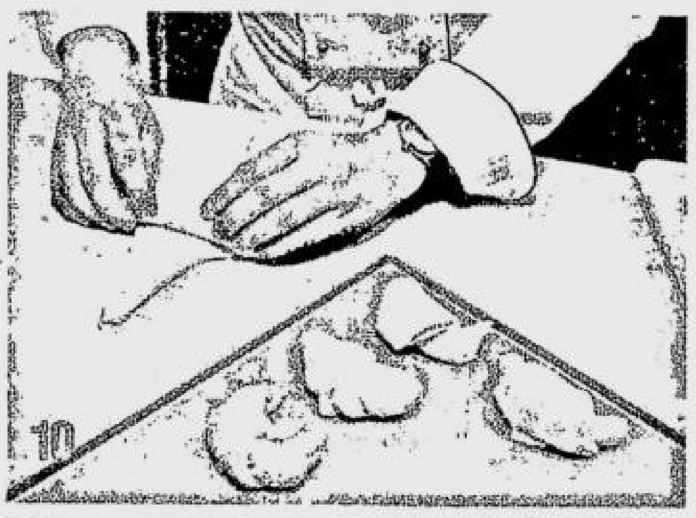
ROLL and fold dough again the same way, wrap in plastic and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Then roll and fold again two more times exactly as directed in Step 6, wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes.



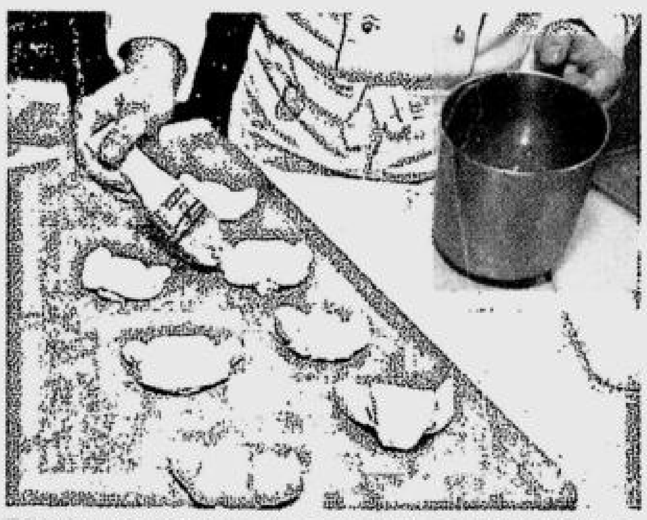
ROLL dough into a rectangle 1/8-inch thick.



CUT in triangles about 6 inches at base and 8 inches long.



ROLL triangles up from base to the "arrow" point and place, point down on ungreased baking sheets. Curve ends inward to form a crescent shape. Cover lightly and let rise in a warm place until very fluffy and doubled (about two hours).



BRUSH each croissant gently with egg yolk mixture.

BAKE in 180°C oven for 20-25 minutes or until golden brown.

SERVE the croissants warm with your favorite spread and a cup of freshly brewed coffee.